

Hafa Adai!

Bridge Capital donates \$5K to Flame Tree Fest. **PAGE 2**
USGS says 5 quakes normal in settings like CNMI. **PAGE 5**

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75¢

IPI to pursue legal action; CCC weighing its options

» **Torres, Torres
Brothers law
firm mum**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC intends to pursue legal action against Bloomberg for a magazine article on the grounds of defamation, while the Commonwealth Casino Commission discussed in an executive session possible legal action as well.

In *Bloomberg Businessweek's* Feb. 15, 2018, article, "A Chinese Casino Has Conquered a Piece of America," it alleged that IPI has flouted rules in doing business in the CNMI and

See IPI on Page 4

'Search for Luhk sisters shamed our family'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Crisostomo family think the authorities' recent search for the remains of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk at their Kobleville property was both laughable and shameful to the entire family.

Annie A. Crisostomo, in her declaration on Wednesday, said the police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation found nothing when they dug up the property last Saturday.

In a declaration on Wednesday, Evelyn A. Crisostomo said the entire family is in shock and is deeply

See LUHK on Page 4



Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan gets emotional as he delivers a statement on the Bloomberg piece alleging corruption.
ERWIN ENCINARES

Sen. Manglona insists ma's signature not forged

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) took the witness stand in Superior Court yesterday and insisted that his mother's signature in a 1985 deed of gift that made him the owner of a piece of land on Upper Capital Hill was not forged.

Paul Manglona said the 4,181-square-meter land had be-

longed to him for 33 years by virtue of his mother Bernadita's deed of gift dated July 11, 1985.

"Everybody knew about. It's notarized for 33 years," said the senator in the ongoing bench trial in his lawsuit against his siblings over the disputed property.

The trial was suspended after judge pro tem David A. Wiseman heard attorney Samuel Mok's mo-

See MANGLONA on Page 4

Procession planned for 'America's pastor'

MONTREAT, N.C. (AP)—The Rev. Billy Graham, the magnetic, movie-star-handsome preacher who became a singular force in postwar American religious life, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, has died. He was 99.

"America's pastor," as he was dubbed, died at 7:46am Wednesday at his home, where only an attending nurse was present, said Mark DeMoss, spokesman for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Both the nurse and Graham's longtime per-

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In this June 26, 2005 file photo, the Rev. Billy Graham speaks on stage on the third and last day of his farewell American revival in the Queens borough of New York.

AP

INSIDE



LOCAL

Golfers can take advantage of discounted practice rounds for the NMC Foundation's Golf Open.

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SCIENCE & TECH

Google's voice-activated assistant is branching out to Nest's deluxe security camera.

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LIFE & STYLE

Harvey Weinstein is invoking the words of Oscar-winning actress Meryl Streep in his defense.

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Bridge Capital donates \$5K to Flame Tree Fest

Bridge Capital, LLC is a major sponsor of the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival that is scheduled for April 26-29, 2018, at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Bridge Capital LLC, an international investment banking and asset management company, agreed to support the biggest annual arts event in the CNMI by donating \$5,000 to the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee last

Tuesday.

Through its donation, Bridge Capital attains the Pacifica level of sponsorship for this year's event. The Pacifica status is given to companies, organizations, or individuals who provide monetary or in-kind sponsorship worth \$5,000 or more.

Bridge Capital has been making significant monetary contributions to other non-profit and charitable organiza-

tions on island and has always been a known supporter of the local arts.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter and Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Parker Yobei accepted the donation from Bridge Capital's Tucker Baldwin last Tuesday at the Bridge Capital office.

Also present were CCAC staff Erica Trinidad, Fe Mc-

Mahon, Gloriana Teuira, Margaret Muna, Luis Ogo, and Jack Sablan.

Aside from the donation, Bridge Capital would also partner with the CCAC for its annual art competition.

"We look forward to a successful partnership with Bridge Capital in perpetuating the rich and artistic cultural heritage in the CNMI," Yobei said. *(Kimberly A. Bautista)*

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APC AQUA RESORT CLUB

Company ordered to pay \$6.2K in unpaid wages

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor in early February ordered a rental company to pay an em-

ployee \$6,200 in unpaid wages.

Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered ABO International Corp., which does business as ABO Rent-a-Car, to pay Pandiyan Sevugan \$6,200

in unpaid wages, as per an oral agreement

Both parties had agreed in the summer of 2015 that Sevugan would work for the company for a monthly salary of \$1,500. Despite the agreement,

the company's president, Bo Zhong, reportedly paid Sevugan only \$1,000 in January 2016. Sevugan was only paid \$500 monthly from February to June 2016.

When Sevugan brought the issue up with Zhong, Zhong promised to pay him, saying he is just awaiting money. But

it never happened and in July 2016, Sevugan did not receive any wages at all.

He ultimately left the company on July 24, 2016.

Despite their time working together, Zhong did not have any supporting timekeeping documents with him, and neither did Sevugan.

Even during the times that Sevugan was paid, the company did not provide detail of his work hours, contrary to what the CNMI Minimum Wage and Hour Act requires of employers.


In all, the company was ordered to pay Sevugan a total of \$6,200.

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LUHK

From Page 1

shamed by the search.

Annie and Evelyn Crisostomo's declarations were attached in the Crisostomo family's motion for the Superior Court to unseal the search warrant.

Janet H. King filed the motion as counsel for siblings Joseph, Annie, Evelyn, and Calistro Crisostomo.

King said the Crisostomo family had their lives suddenly disrupted by a very public search of their property, yet no members of the family have been charged with any crimes related to the search.

King stated in the motion that the court should release the search warrant associated with the search, its attached affidavits that recount basic facts about the suspected offenses, and provide probable cause for the issuance of the warrant, and a property inventory of the

things seized, if any.

Although everyone hopes the mystery of the Luhk sisters' disappearance is solved, King said there is no indication that any member of the Crisostomo family is under suspicion.

King said the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 3 of the NMI Constitution protects citizens from unreasonable search and seizure.

Courts around the country have held that under the 4th Amendment, targets of search warrants have a pre-charge right of access to search warrant materials.

King said in order to protect the government's interest in the ongoing investigation into the disappearance of the Luhk sisters, the Crisostomo family would agree to a gag order that would limit access only to the Crisostomo family, their counsel, and counsel's staff and agents, and the court and its staff in any legal action

involving the search warrant materials.

Annie Crisostomo, 43, said the idea of human remains of the Luhk sisters on their property was so preposterous that she actually laughed out loud when she read in the search warrant that authorities were looking for the remains.

"Although I was laughing, inside I was very fearful and embarrassed because my family and I are being unfairly treated...ever since the search on our property," she said.

Annie Crisostomo said the property is owned by their mother, Ana, who passed away in May 2017.

Annie Crisostomo currently resides in the Koblerville property with her family, along with her brother, Calistro, and his family.

She recalled that when she came home last Saturday at 2pm, she found 15 to 20 police and FBI agents at their home. She said many officers were standing around, some seemed

like they were guarding them, and others were shoveling.

Annie Crisostomo said a very large backhoe then came.

At some point, she asked the police what was going on and she was handed a one-page document and was told it was a search warrant.

Annie Crisostomo said she read the search warrant, that they were looking for the human remains of the Luhk sisters.

She said the police and FBI, by coming on their property and digging, unfairly connected them to the Luhk sisters' disappearance.

"People hate us. More than the usual number of cars have been passing by our house since Feb. 17, 2018, passing by [and] slowing down just to take a look," she added.

Evelyn Crisostomo, 33, pointed out that her brother, Joseph Crisostomo, who has been convicted of murder, was at the Department of Corrections and serving a five-year sentence on something not

related to the Luhk sisters when the children went missing in May 2011. She said their brother, Joseph, was only released from Corrections on Dec. 17, 2011.

Joseph A. Crisostomo was slapped with a life imprisonment sentence in May 2014 for the murder, rape, and kidnapping of bartender Emerita Romero.

Evelyn Crisostomo believes the police and FBI are only harassing them, as they do not have a good basis to damage the Crisostimo property and

subject them to shame in front of their neighbors and people passing by last Saturday.

"We just want to know what is going on. We feel like we are being targeted and the police and FBI did whatever they wanted to do unfairly and irresponsibly," she said.

As of yesterday, authorities were still mum on what prompted the search.

This coming May 25 marks the seventh year of the mysterious disappearance of the Luhk sisters near a school bus pavilion in As Teo.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

tion for judgment for partial findings.

Mok, who is counsel for siblings Priscilla A. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona, made the motion shortly after attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for Paul Manglona, informed the court that they rest their case after the senator completed his testimony.

Wiseman asked the parties to submit their briefs about the issue no later than May 4, 2018.

Paul Manglona testified that his parents wanted to sell the Upper Capital Hill property 33 years ago and, as he was staying on Saipan at that time, they gave it to him and put it under his name.

He said he sold the property for his parents and he gave them \$50,000—"every single penny."

The senator said the only thing he told his parents that, since the buyer was Japanese, the lease will return to him 40 years later.

Paul Manglona said he told his parents that, if it is okay with them, he is not keeping a penny of the \$50,000 but the property would be his 40 years later, if he is still alive.

"They said it's okay, no problem. I gave them the check," he said.

In an interview, Paul Manglona said some of his siblings named in his lawsuit were not happy that his father later married a Filipina nurse after their mother died.

"They're worried that my dad would give away all his property. For me, it's not about property and money," he said.

The Manglonas' father has already passed away.

The senator said he supported his father's decision to marry, yet some of his siblings did not support that.

"They did not want that; they're pissed with my Dad. It's all about jealousy. It's all about not respecting your father after your mother is gone," he said.

Paul Manglona said some of his siblings are mad at him and at two of their brothers, Charles and Prudencio, be-

cause the three of them supported their father's marriage.

"This is all about that. I don't know why those guys are getting pissed. They all know all along that it's under my name and I leased it to the Japanese. It's all recorded," he said.

Paul Manglona said the deed of gift is not forged and their parents and his siblings knew about the deed for 33 years.

He said the defendants' handwriting expert, Reed Hayes, is not credible and made a wrong analysis of the exemplar signatures of their mother.

Hayes testified on Wednesday that the signature in the deed of gift of land to Paul Manglona does not match his mother's other signatures.

Paul Manglona said some of his siblings were talking that they were going to sue him over the Upper Capital Hill property so he told his father about it. He said their father told him to let him sign an affidavit on Dec. 10, 2013, indicating the sale of the Upper Capital Hill land for \$50,000 and giving the land to Paul Manglona.

On cross examination, Samuel Mok asked if it is true that during that date when the affidavit was supposedly signed, their father was very sick and in the hospital. Paul Manglona said their father was less sick at that time and that he signed it at the Rota hospital.

Mok said their father supposedly signed the affidavit on Rota at 8:40am yet the record showed that he was in the hospital on Saipan at 11:55am that same day.

Paul Manglona said their father was on Rota and was transferred to Saipan, but that he only learned about it in the morning and could not remember the exact time.

"He was walking. He was not dying. He was put in a wheelchair," the senator said.

He agreed with Mok that their father had cancer and had blood transfusion at that time.

In his lawsuit against his siblings, Paul Manglona asked the court to declare him the owner of the property by virtue of the 1985 deed of gift. Their mother, Bernadita, is already deceased.

PROCESSION

From Page 1

sonal physician, Dr. Lucian Rice, who arrived about 20 minutes later, said it was "a peaceful passing," DeMoss said. Graham had suffered from cancer, pneumonia, and other ailments.

More than anyone else, Graham built evangelicalism into a force that rivaled liberal Protestantism and Roman Catholicism in the U.S. His leadership summits and crusades in more than 185 countries and territories forged powerful global links among conservative Christians and threw a lifeline to believers in the communist bloc.

Tributes to Graham poured in from major leaders, with President Donald Trump tweeting: "The GREAT Billy Graham is dead. There was

nobody like him! He will be missed by Christians and all religions. A very special man." Former President Barack Obama said Graham "gave hope and guidance to generations of Americans."

A tall, striking man with thick, swept-back hair, stark blue eyes and a firm jaw, Graham was a commanding presence in the pulpit, with a powerful baritone voice.

"The Bible says," was his catchphrase. His unquestioning belief in Scripture turned the Gospel into a "rapier" in his hands, he said.

Graham reached multitudes around the globe through public appearances and his pioneering use of prime-time telecasts, network radio, daily newspaper columns, evangelistic films and satellite TV hookups.

By his final crusade in 2005 in New York City, he

had preached in person to more than 210 million people worldwide. No evangelist is expected to have his level of influence again.

"William Franklin Graham Jr. can safely be regarded as the best who ever lived at what he did," said William Martin, author of the Graham biography "A Prophet With Honor."

Graham's body was moved Wednesday from his home in Montreat to Asheville, where a funeral home is handling the arrangements, DeMoss said. His body will be taken from Asheville to Charlotte on Saturday in a procession expected to take 3 ½ hours and ending at the Billy Graham Museum and Library. He will lie in repose Monday and Tuesday in the Charlotte house where he grew up, which was moved from its original location to the grounds of the Graham library. A private funeral for Graham

clined to comment on IPI's decision to sue.

In yesterday's commission meeting, executive director Edward DeLeon Guerrero, said the magazine has its own agenda.

"We are not politicians; we are regulators...We do not participate in [politics]," said DeLeon Guerrero. "Most people who understand the national scene know that Bloomberg is a far-left organization. ...If you're a Republican, you are not a friend of Bloomberg. If you are a friend of [U.S. President Donald J. Trump], you are not a friend of Bloomberg," he said.

"Since IPI opened, they have been the low-hanging fruit that is easy to pick, easy to criticize," he added.

The article mentions that politics in the CNMI is "dominated by two prominent fami-

lies, one of them the DeLeon Guerreros." It later mentions that the CCC executive director is Gov. Torres' uncle, and that Gov. Torres' former chief of staff turned executive adviser to the governor is DeLeon Guerrero's son, Matt DeLeon Guerrero.

In response, DeLeon Guerrero pointed out that he has been executive director of the casino commission before Gov. Torres took office in late 2015. He also noted that the commissioners—chair Juan Sablan, vice chair Joseph Reyes, Alvaro Santos, Martin San Nicolas, and Justin Manglona—are all appointees of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, who was Gov. Torres' predecessor.

Matt DeLeon Guerrero has been Gov. Torres' chief of staff since the latter was still the lieutenant governor of Inos.

IPI

From Page 1

has had improper relationships with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several of his family members,

IPI released a statement Wednesday evening that it is planning to pursue legal action against the magazine publisher.

Separately, the Commonwealth Casino Commission discussed yesterday possible legal actions against the magazine during its open meeting and in an executive session, which is usually not open to the public.

Before *Saipan Tribune* left the meeting yesterday, an emotional commission chair Juan Sablan denied the article's corruption allegation. "We are doing our job."

Sablan, who appeared to be fighting back tears, said: "The commission is not corrupted. We never received any money. ...If you have doubt[s], come to the meetings because at every meeting, we question IPI on every detail."

He insists that the commission regularly reviews and strengthens regulations to make sure "IPI complies with the best interest of the Commonwealth."

In an interview yesterday, Torres told *Saipan Tribune* that he has yet to consider pursuing legal actions against the magazine, while his brother, Victor Torres, said, "No comment on those issues and no comment on the firm." Victor Torres is one of three brothers of the governor at the family run Torres Brothers law firm, which the magazine article claims to have benefited from IPI.

The governor also de-

USGS says 5 earthquakes normal in settings like CNMI

A U.S. Geological Survey seismologist assured yesterday that the five earthquakes that occurred near Rota and Saipan last week are normal and expected in tectonic settings like the CNMI.

In response to *Saipan Tribune* questions about the series of earthquakes, USGS Alaska Volcano Observatory research geophysicist and seismologist Aaron G. Wech said the recent earthquakes southeast of Saipan are the result of the Pacific plate colliding with and sinking beneath the Philippine Sea plate.

Wech said in an email that movement between the two plates creates earthquakes, and temblors can also occur within the down-going Pacific plate as it bends and continually deforms as a result of the collision.

He said both types of activity are normal in tectonic settings.

The CNMI is located within the Pacific Ring of Fire.

Wech said that having five earthquakes are not particularly unusual.

The seismologist said the first event was large enough to generate aftershocks, which likely explains the subsequent activity. Wech said there is no scientific reason to think that these events mean that a larger destructive earthquake is imminent.

"However, they do serve as a good reminder to remain aware of and prepared for local seismic and tsunami hazards," he said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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UCEED undergoes disability training

The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Northern Marianas College recently sponsored a four-day training visit by Eric Folk, postsecond-

ary supports project director of the Center for Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

NMC Disability Support Services is preparing to pilot a

postsecondary support model this semester, which will help students with disabilities better transition to college, as well as provide academic and social supports such as peer

mentoring and self-advocacy.

Five students in the Rehabilitation and Human Services Program at the NMC School of Education received training on Disability Basics and Peer Coaching on Monday, Feb. 20.

Other participants included the RH instructor, NMC's Disability Support Services counselors, and UCEDD program manager.

In addition to training students on disability etiquette, self-determination, and peer mentoring, Folk also provided technical assistance and coaching to DSS counselors.

Today, Folk will be meeting with members of disability agencies (i.e., Developmental Disabilities Council, Office of Vocational Rehabilita-



Eric Folk, postsecondary supports project director of the Center for Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, poses with University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Northern Marianas College. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tion, Public School System, CNMI University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), as well as Special Education teachers and principals from Kagman High

School, Saipan Southern High School, and Marianas High School to collaborate and build on the Public School System model for the fall semester. (PR)

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Collabro to debut in Manila

Fresh from starring in „Britain's Got Talent: The Big Celebration" in Liverpool, England, musical theatre group Collabro have jetted in for an Asian Tour that will see them perform for the first time in the Philippines at Resorts World Manila on Feb. 26.

The hugely-popular four-piece act composed of singers Jamie Lambert, Michael Auger, Matt Pagan and Thomas Redgrave will launch their Asian shows with two concerts in Japan on Feb. 18 and 20 before arriving in the Philippines capital for the first time.

As well as performing for their army of „Collaborators" in Manila, the four British singers are lined up to make several TV appearances on popular ABS-CBN productions *ASAP*, *Showtime*

and *Umagang Kay Ganda* to showcase the vocals, style and charisma that have helped them win millions of fans around the world.

Four years ago this week, the boys stepped in front of TV's *Britain's Got Talent* judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden, and Alesha Dixon for an audition that blew away the judges and resulted in a standing ovation from the entire theatre.

Today that audition of the song *Stars* from *Les Misérables* is as popular as ever with over 40 million views on YouTube alone. Legendary TV and music mogul Cowell described it as: „... an absolutely brilliant audition—brilliant" and the British public agreed, voting Collabro as the show's

winning act for 2014.

“We are all looking forward to working with Collabro on making their first ever show in the Philippines a great success,” said a spokesman for event producers and promoters, Spicy Lemon.

“As well as songs from all three of their albums—including the show-stopping *Stars*—the boys will dip into the catalogue of some of the biggest musical theatre shows of all time and no doubt have a few other surprises for their Manila fans.”

Remaining tickets for the show at the Newport Performing Arts Theater, Resorts World are on sale online from www.platinumlist.net or from the box office at Resorts World. For more information, contact Spicy Lemon on +63 995 9276776. (PR)

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Lawmakers look at obtaining the AMP

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives will soon talk about possibly getting back the American Memorial Park, with multiple government agencies supporting the decision.

Rep. Donald Barcinas' (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-152, if passed, authorizes Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to request to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to transfer administration of the American Memorial Park to the CNMI government.

Citing Section 5(f) of U.S. Public Law 95-348, the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer the AMP, including real and personal property, to the CNMI government if requested.

According to House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs chair Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), the area would be an ideal site to set up a Carolinian and Indigenous Affairs Office as well as a new office for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Comments submitted from MVA, the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., Saipan Mayor's Office, Indigenous Affairs Office, Department of Public Lands, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources all supported the transfer of the property to the CNMI government.

Earlier introduced as House Resolution 20-08, also authored by Barcinas, the repossession of the park from federal authorities would only

happen if the U.S. Department of the Interior is convinced that the CNMI government has the funding to continue

maintaining the park. The National Park Services currently maintains the park and enforces federal laws in the area.

Though it is not stated in H.B. 20-157, the bill merely mentions its intention to authorize the governor to request

that the park be transferred back to the jurisdiction of the CNMI government.

The committee adopted

the bill on Wednesday and it would be introduced to the House at their next session, according to Sablan.

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Vet Center to do outreach in the Marianas

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced yesterday that Vet Center services will soon be available to Marianas veterans. The initial outreach visit by Guam Vet Center providers is scheduled for next Wednesday, Feb. 28 on Saipan. Outreach visits to Tinian and Rota are planned for March.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs' Vet Centers provide veterans, service members, and their families with a wide range of mental health and social services at no cost," Sablan said. "These outreach visits by the Guam Vet Center are an important first step in the right direction. Our ultimate goal is to establish a Vet Center of our own, right here in the Northern Marianas."

The Guam Vet Center's initial visits to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be needs assessments with veterans and other stakeholders. The congressional office is working with Guam Vet Center director Dr. Edward Santos to identify stakeholder groups and coordinate meetings. Counseling services through on-island visits and telehealth are set to begin in March.

According to Santos, Vet Centers serve as "access points" to the full range of VA services, including health care, benefits, education, and readjustment counseling.

"Our motto is 'Keeping the Promise,' and veterans are given a welcome home and may walk in at any time to a Vet Center," Santos said. "Currently there are at least 300 Vet Centers throughout the country. Having a Vet Center in the Northern Marianas will be a critical bridge in accessing VA Services," he added.

A member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee since February 2017, Sablan has been pressing the VA to improve services for veterans in the Marianas, including access to VA medical and mental health care. A fully-staffed VA

clinic and Vet Center are two of Sablan's top priorities. Sablan met with VA Secretary David Shulkin and his staff several times last year and again on Feb. 14, 2018, in Washington to discuss the needs of Marianas veterans, including the need for a Vet Center. Within hours of that Feb. 14 meeting, Santos notified the congressional office that he had received VA approval to move forward with services to the Marianas.

"I thank Secretary Shulkin for his commitment to improving VA services for veterans here in the Marianas," Sablan said. "And I thank the

Guam Vet Center's director, Dr. Edward Santos, for his invaluable support and collaboration as well."

For more information, contact the congressional office at 323-2647 or kilili@mail.house.gov, or contact the Guam Vet Center at (671) 472-7161. (PR)

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho suspended yesterday the proceedings in the theft case filed against a former Office of the Public Auditor employee.

Camacho ordered that the case against Violita Agulto Diaz be taken off-calendar and that the status conference scheduled for Feb. 28 be vacated.

Camacho ordered the suspension of the proceedings at the Office of the Attorney General's request on Wednesday.

In the government's motion, assistant attorney general Heather P. Barcinas disclosed that Diaz was accepted into the Adult Diversion Program under the Office of Adult Probation.

Barcinas said the government and the defense will be executing an adult diversion program agreement that will be filed with the court.

Diversion means the OAG is not going for conviction. Rather, a defendant will pay a certain amount and perform community service, and other conditions if he or she qualifies under the program.

If Diaz completes the program, she will not have a criminal conviction.

Last October, OAG filed an information charging Diaz of stealing \$900 from OPA. The defendant allegedly took the money from OPA's petty cash on Aug. 8, 2016. Diaz was at the time an employee of OPA.

Diaz was not arrested as she was only summoned to appear in court.

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 8th birthday to Elkee Fumiku Babauta! We love you always and take good care. Greetings come from Daddy Rick, Mommy Janet, Lola Mita, Tito Mongmong, and Nanay Irene.

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ESFDB names reps for CNMI-wide STEM Fair

Children interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, or STEM, played a big part in the annual Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja science fair.

This marks the sixth year the school has organized the STEM fair for its Kindergarten through eighth-grade students, an event implemented by school administrator and principal Carmen H. Atalig and organized by school science coordinator Mary Rose S. Lucero.

The students displayed their science experiments and projects, from earth science to math, and were judged by members of the Luta community.

"I'm truly amazed by the experiments," said Atalig. "They incorporate STEM in everything that is needed to advance them in the CNMI [Public School System] Schoolwide Science fair, and future high school science fair preparation."

"We must encourage and inspire students to study in the STEM fields and connect them with educational opportunities," said Atalig. "Our students are the future inventors, scientists, technicians, engineers, and mathematicians of the Luta community [and] the CNMI as a whole."

"Also, the quality of the student's science projects this year, I think, is a great reflection on the quality of our teachers in making science fun and I applaud them for an amazing job," said Atalig.

Lucero, who is also the 3rd to 5th grade science teacher, praised the judges, parents, and teachers who volunteered their services for the event, making it a success.

Lucero shared the same sentiments as Atalig about motivating and inspiring students to think about how their science projects could benefit them and their community.

The sixth- to eighth-grade science teacher, Edward Maratita Jr., said, "We continue to have amazing and talented students."

"They get to be the scientist, they get to choose, they get to come up with the methods, they get to come up with



Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's STEM Fair winners are, from left, Keef G. Matondo, Kaitlyn I. Balgoa, Michael Jon T. Cantil, Joachim Ramon D. Maratita, and Princess Gin Mahusay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

materials, and draw their own conclusions. This allows them a lot of freedom and it helps them to get some excitement in their projects," added Maratita.

These year's judges are PSS Board of Education member Herman Atalig, Lorenzo Barcinas, Davi Bowen of Rota NMC CREES, Francisco S. Calvo, Geraldine Dela Cruz, Charlene Manglona, Sen. Paul A. Manglona, Rota JROTC instructor Joseph Parenteau, and Orly Soria.

The top five winners will represent the school and the Rota community at the upcoming CNMI PSS Island-wide STEM Fair to be held on March 10, 2018, on Saipan.

PSS allows only five students from each school to participate in the STEM Fair.

The students who will represent their school and the Rota community are Joachim Ramon D. Maratita (Kindergarten), Princess Gin L. Mahusay (1st Grade), Keef G. Matondo (3rd Grade), Kaitlyn Amber P. Balgoa (7th Grade), Michael Jon T. Cantil (7th Grade).

"We congratulate all the students for their hard work, and look forward to working with them again next year," said Lucero.

In addition, assisting in the school STEM fair are the school's science teachers: Monette Ladao, Florinda Chavez, and Maratita. (ESFDB)

Islandwide water outage on Tinian

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, Feb. 24, 2018, from 8am to 2pm for the entire island of Tinian.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will replace a non-working 8-inch gate valve, which will isolate the old water tank from the newly constructed half-million gallon tank. As a result of the replacement, CUC will be able

to supply extra volume of water to the island.

This project is funded by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs through the CNMI CIP office and the Mayor of Tinian's Office.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!

JOIN SAIPAN'S FIRST ANNUAL

RACE FOR LIFE

Enter a 4-member team to compete in the first ever IT&E Race for Life (Island-wide) Scavenger Hunt slated for Saturday, March 24, 2018! Registration Fee \$300 per team. Register by Thursday, March 22, 2018.

Awesome prizes up for grabs!

All proceeds to benefit the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.



THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

Contact us at RaceForLife@itehq.net or stop by our Marketing office in Middle Road, Chalan Laulau.

Practice round discounts for NMC tourney players

Golfers who have registered to play at the Northern Marianas College Foundation's Golf Open on March 3, 2018, can take advantage of discounted practice rounds at Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The discounted rate of \$40 can be applied anytime, morning or afternoon, between Monday Feb. 26, 2018 and Friday, March 2, 2018. The regular rate for playing a round of golf during the morning is \$50.

"We are happy to support

the NMC Foundation and its tournament players by offering this discounted rate," said Franco Santos, Saipan Laolao Bay local market developer.

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (west course). Showtime is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the



Frank Pangelinan sets up for a golf shot at a prior year's tournament hosted by the NMC Foundation. Saipan Laolao Golf and Resort is offering discounted practice golf rounds for registered players of the NMC Foundation Golf Tournament, which will be held on March 3, 2018. The discounted rates can be used anytime from Feb. 26, 2018 to March 2, 2018.

NMC

men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Honda HR-V from Joeten Motors, \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co., and \$5,000 in cash from Pacifica Insurance. The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHEFA deadline

The deadline to submit supporting documents for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance applications is on Feb. 28, 2018. All documents must be complete before submission. Office hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm. (PR)

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Feb. 27, 2018, from 10am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. (PR)



Bank of Guam donates \$5,000 in addition to thousands of dollars worth of golf gear in support of the annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament that will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018. In the photo are Bank of Guam employees led by vice president/ CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, fourth from left, and NMC staff and students, led by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, fifth from right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bank of Guam donates \$5K to NMC Foundation

To support higher education in the CNMI, Bank of Guam recently made a \$5,000 donation as well as thousands of dollars more in golf gear to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

The donation was made

as part of the NMC Foundation's 15th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2018. The event will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"We are proud to help

the Northern Marianas College further its mission of helping CNMI residents improve their quality of life through educational advancement and professional development," said Marcie Tomokane, vice president/

CNMI regional manager of Bank of Guam.

"We are extremely grateful for Bank of Guam's donation and continued support of the College," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"Bank of Guam's generosity has enabled many organizations in the CNMI, including the NMC Foundation, to carry out important goals and objectives," said Mary Teno, NMC Foundation board chair. "We are thankful for the company's longstanding support." (NMC)



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Luis Camacho: A parent leader who makes a difference

"If you give just one hour a week to your child's school, you can make a difference."

This is what Luis Camacho, the president of Mount Carmel School's Parent Council, tells every parent every chance he gets. And it reflects his overall efforts to engage more and more parents in making a difference at their schools.

Camacho is no stranger to parental engagement. At various schools throughout the island, Camacho has pioneered leadership models and parent activities that have revolutionized how parents interact with their children's schools. Camacho was one of the founding members of the Public School System Parent Advisory Council and collaborated with the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and



Mount Carmel School Parent Council president Luis Camacho, left, is joined by other members of the council at a recent parent assembly.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the Division of Youth Service to launch their annual Parent Leadership Month.

With this experience, Camacho has led other parent leaders at Mount Carmel School to accomplish many things over the past five years.

Four years ago, Camacho worked with other parent leaders to raise funds and resources to support the school's maintenance needs. This included lawn cleaning equip-

ment, wheelbarrows, and even a riding mower. Not one to shy away from manual labor, Camacho has also been known to clean the campus himself, whether by mowing the lawn or water-blasting the campus sidewalks. Many other parents often join him on the weekends to keep the campus clean.

Campus cleanliness is not the only thing Camacho and his parent leaders have worked on. A few years ago, they



At its 2018 Night with the Knights, Mount Carmel School's AlumKnight Association recognized Parent Council president Luis Camacho for his outstanding contributions to the school over the years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

worked closely with school officials to address safety concerns that parents had about campus parking and traffic. At one point, morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups were chaotic affairs without clear driving and parking lanes and drivers that jeopardized the safety of students. To address this problem, parent leaders and school officials designed a new parking and traffic plan. This plan created clearly demarcated traffic lanes and parking zones, erected additional traffic barricades, increased supervision during drop-off and pick-up, and had teachers and student drivers park their vehicles south of the cafeteria to alleviate traffic congestion elsewhere. While there are still plans to further improve the parking and traffic situation, thus far the current plan has not only made it safer for students, but it has also made parking and traffic

more efficient for all drivers.

To further support student safety, earlier this year, Camacho worked with parent leaders and AlumKnights to procure a video surveillance system for the school. The parent leaders also secured additional equipment for the IT department.

To make all of these efforts possible, Camacho has helped parent leaders to work more effectively together. Last year, the former Parent Teacher Organization was reconstituted as a Parent Council, as the faculty formed their own Faculty Council. Both councils were modeled after Student Council, and share the same goals to represent their stakeholders and to coordinate different activities for those stakeholders. All presidents of the councils, including Camacho, as Parent Council president, sit on the school's Leadership Team, which meets regularly to manage operations, facilitate plan-

ning, and address various issues at the school.

In addition to representing parent concerns, the new Parent Council has developed three signature activities held every year, all of which are geared toward families. The first activity is the Turkey Trot Health Walk, which was launched in November last year to promote healthy lifestyles and to raise funds for their efforts. The next major activity is the council's Easter Egg Hunt, held the first Monday after spring break. The final activity is the council's annual End-of-Year Carnival, which allows students to enjoy the last day of school with carnival games, activities, and treats.

In all of this, Camacho makes it clear that it's not just about raising money; it's about raising awareness and getting more parents involved. As he always puts it, "Just one hour a week is all we ask." (PR)



Mount Carmel School's Parent Council gathers together for a group photo during the first ever Turkey Trot Health Walk last year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their bids for the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EIGHT (8) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-18.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018**, at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of eight (8) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International Air Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of eight units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Accounting Department Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP. 96950, beginning February 23, 2018 upon the payment of **FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

There is no pre-bid conference for this project. Bidders will be responsible for scheduling a site inspection with CPA.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: February 20, 2018



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PORTS POLICE OFFICE RENOVATIONS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-16 DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the renovation of office space for the Ports Police department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Renovations of the Ports Police Office - Design/Build Services"**. One (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the Ports Police Chief, Juan Dela Cruz, at 237-6500, extension 108 or (670) 483-4535.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | Total cost for design and construction | 60% |
| 2. | Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff | 15% |
| 3. | Experience of the firm on similar or related projects | 15% |
| 4. | Project Approach | 10% |

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within NINETY (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for design and construction is stated in the scope of work. Liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 29, 2018

Industry safety training

With the drastic increase of new development on our island, our businesses are experiencing an even more demanding consumer base. It is important to ensure safety at all times. Being safety-oriented can help improve your employees' morale, productivity, as well as keep your customers and visitors protected from harm.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions present "General Industry Safety," a non-construction-based training seminar that is geared toward the safety of employees and customers in a general workplace.

This training seminar is highly recommended for offices, wholesale, and retail businesses.

Though hazards may be limitless, every employee has a right to a safe place of work and employers are required to provide them a safe and healthy workplace.

During this training seminar, participants will be able to identify potential hazards in a workplace, create a culture of safety in their business, learn tips to keep their employees

and customers safe, and determine the various aspects of a safe and healthy work environment. Participants will have the chance to familiarize themselves with basic safety key practices that they are able to share with others.

One attendee at a similar event said, "The presenter provided valuable information and examples. The materials provided different perspectives that were very clear and easy to understand. It was an interactive presentation. [The instructor] was enthusiastic and encouraging!"

The "General Industry Safety" training seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on Thursday, March 22, 2018, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Saipan Tribune Make it your *DAILY* habit.

*Celebrate the diversity of our enchanting forests,
the magic of our legends,
and the wonder of our natural beauty.*

2018 MISS MARIANAS Pageant

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

HIBISCUS HALL
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
6:00PM-10:00PM
\$40 PER PERSON

Photo by Patrick Canacho

Logos: STELLAR MARIANAS, The Marianas, HIBISCUS HALL, DFS, I&E, Tan Holdings, IRIDESCENT, pacifica, McDonald's, TRESEMME, CHANMI, TRIBE, BCM, DASUKE YANAI PHOTOGRAPHY.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Centering Pregnancy

Centering Pregnancy is a program that incorporates **prenatal care visit, education and support** for pregnant women in a group setting.

Eight to 12 women of similar gestational age

meet for 10 sessions throughout their pregnancy

for medical checkups and opportunities to talk to each other about their experience.

Call us Now to Register at
287-7718

"Healthy women, children, and families for a healthier CNMI"

Logos: Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Division of Public Health, Maternal & Child Health Bureau.

Centering Pregnancy Location: WIC Clinic, Navy Hill Saipan • Contact Information: CHCC Maternal & Child Health Program

Fabulous SAIPAN VEGAS

The Best Gaming Club in Saipan is pleased to announce the February
RED PACKET
promotion in celebration of
Chinese New Year

With over \$11,000 in lucky red packets to be won in our DAILY player draws, with over \$7,000 in cash prizes including two \$2,500 lucky winners.

Come celebrate the Year of the Dog at Saipan Vegas!
You could be the next big winner!

Watch out for our special Valentine's day promotion at Saipan Vegas Resort!

Location: Middle Road (next to McDonald's) • 24 hours a day • 7 days a week

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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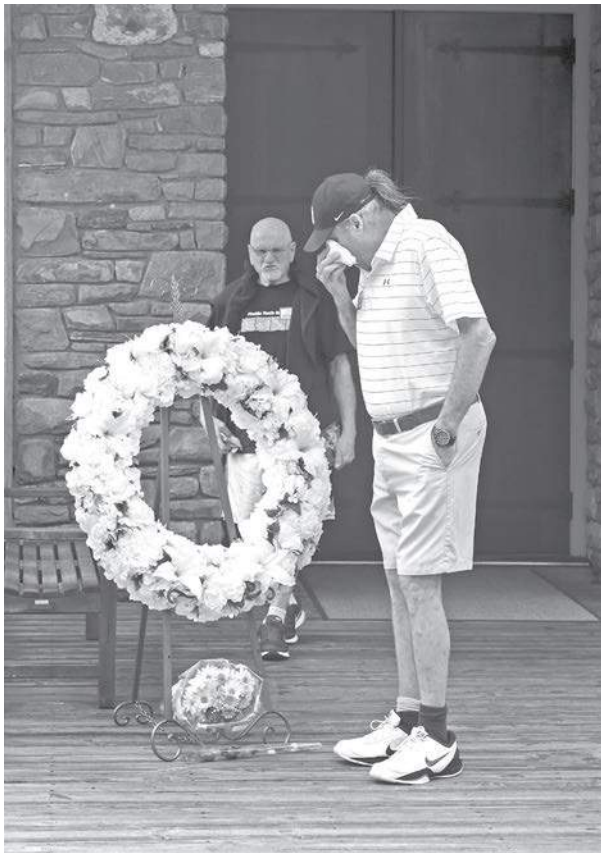
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What did MLK Jr. say about Billy Graham?



AP
Jimmy Jones, of Asheville, N.C., reacts after placing flowers in tribute to the Rev. Billy Graham outside the chapel at the Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 in Asheville.

By **AARON MOODY**
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

One of Billy Graham's greatest compliments came from a man he knew on a nickname basis as "Mike." Most people know that person as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

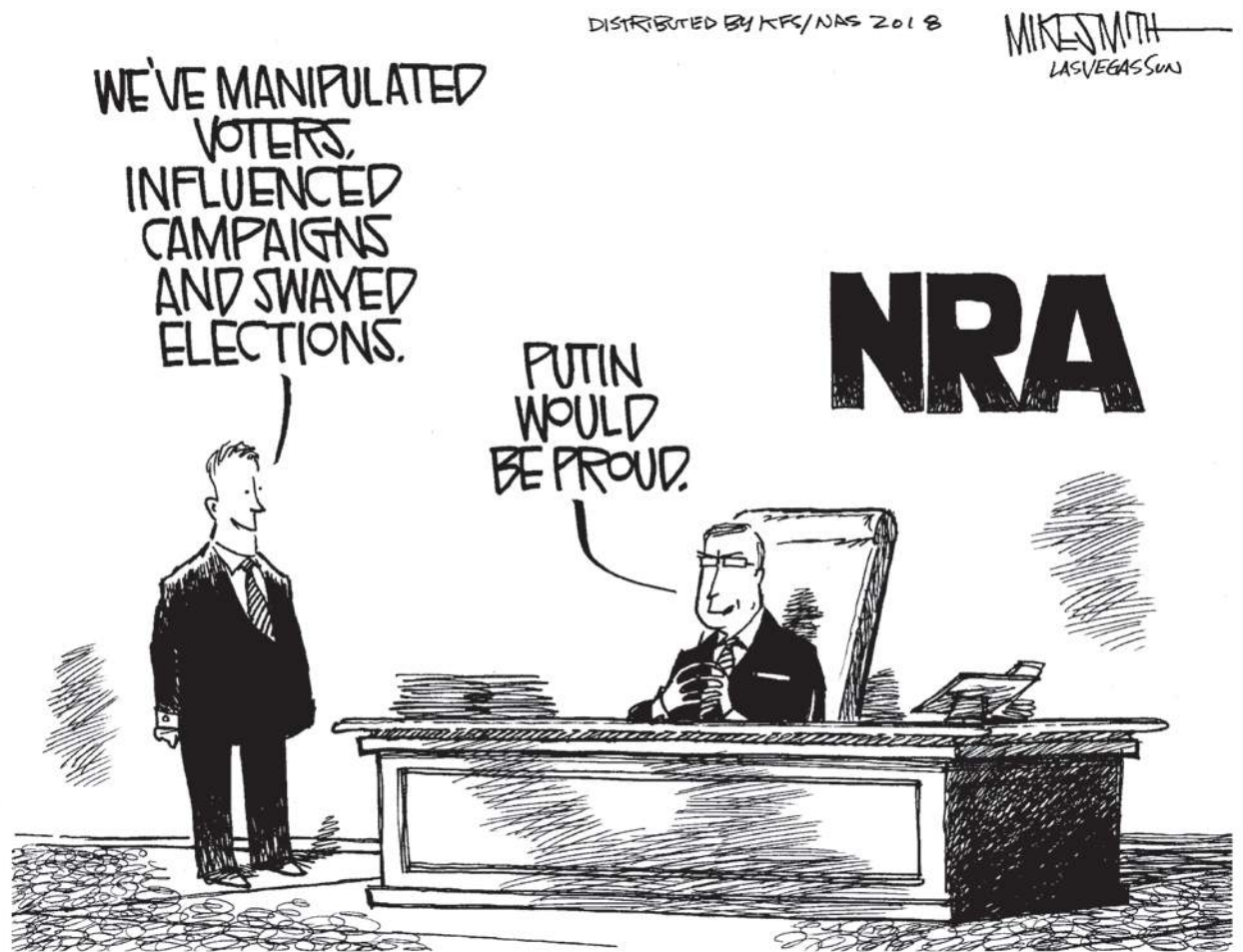
King once said of Graham, "Had it not been for the ministry of my good friend Dr. Billy Graham, my work in the Civil Rights Movement would not have been as successful as it has been."

Graham died Wednesday morning at his Montreat, N.C., home after years of battling health issues. He was 99.

Graham in his autobiography, "Just As I Am," recalled meeting King during a 1957 New York Crusade meeting.

Though Graham was criticized for not marching with Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s, King thanked Graham for sharing a platform with him at Madison Square Garden as part of the July 1957 crusade.

King led the invocation at the event, and called the discussion the two shared during the trip "one of the high points of my life."

See **WHAT** on Next Page

Yes, we have no chicken

A screw-up of international proportions hit the business news a few days ago: It was reported that most of the 900 or so KFC outlets in England and Ireland stopped operations because they ran out of chicken. The chicken shortage was a result of "teething problems" with KFC's new shipper in that market, DHL. DHL didn't deliver the chicken, thus choking KFC's business.

Well, one shock of recognition runs the whole world 'round, eh? The story may carry a London dateline but it features two storied names in Saipan's scene.

The "H" in DHL stands for Larry Hillblom (1943-1995), a founder of the company, who was a well-known resident of Saipan. KFC, for its part, is a well-known Chalan Kanoa resident and has served my pals and I many a dinner.

Anyway, one facet of the chicken-shortage story is that it's such a contrast with KFC's usual way of doing things. KFC's international expansion was regarded as a marvel of competence and was studied and discussed in business management circles. And, not so incidentally, KFC now stands as the largest restaurant chain in China.

If nothing else, the story can serve as a useful reminder of something so obvious that we can overlook it: Logistics is pretty much everything. It's the invisible backbone of commerce.

And it really is invisible. A lot of freight moves at night, warehouses are often unseen by the casual eye, and the experts that keep the logistics chain operating aren't usually showcased as business celebrities.

But the expertise is certainly essential and it can be well-rewarded. I knew an officer in the U.S. Marines whose only complaint about re-entering civilian life was that a constant stream of job offers was cutting into his beach time. The corporate head hunters just wouldn't give him any peace. His military specialty? Logistics.

Stepping back to the global scene, if you ask anyone about China's rise to economic prominence they'll tell you it's because China built a lot of factories. That's not the entire picture, though; it's just the more obvious end of it. From what I've seen in the factory-to-market chain in south China (the nation's manufacturing center), the roads, the airports, the administration, and the expertise are world-class. True, I just saw a few narrow slices of this, but, still, what I saw was impressive. That's why I remain convinced that Mandarin Chinese is the language of the future; it is becoming the global language for getting things done.

If you want to geek-out about economics (OK, nobody really wants to do that, but we can pretend, right?) you'll note that transportation is a leading indicator of broader economic activ-

By **ED STEPHENS**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ity. When things are moving, economies are getting ready to get moving, too.

With this in mind, we can seek more conceptual leverage. If transportation is a leading indicator of economic activity, then what's a leading indicator for transportation?

I don't have a textbook answer to that, but my beach chair notion is that infrastructure and related elements of logistics (warehousing, fuel depots, repair facilities, etc.) are obvious candidates. But, from my experience, just as important as the visible assets are the intangible elements such as competence and efficiency in the logistical realm, including ports administration. After all, ports are bottlenecks that can hold an entire chain of industrial events and capital hostage. Show me a place where it's hard to move goods, and I'll show you a place that probably has a broad array of economic inefficiencies.

If it seems like I'm spinning too big of a logistical discussion out of a mere hiccup in a restaurant headline, you should consider the case of yet another restaurant chain, Waffle House, which, like KFC, has its origins in the U.S. South.

The nation's 2,100 or so Waffle House locations are open 24/7. Waffle House has such solid logistics that its restaurants are considered benchmarks for disaster conditions. According to a Sept. 1, 2011, article in the *Wall Street Journal*, the Federal Emergency Management Agency uses, among other measures, a "Waffle House Index" to gauge the severity of natural disasters.

In fact, the last time I ate at a Waffle House it was during a freak ice-storm that shut down a swath of the deep South. A Waffle House was, indeed, the only restaurant open in the area. With the exception of the Waffle House and a couple of gas stations, the retail sector was closed, cold, and dark.

Ah, logistics. It's what's for dinner. Unless you mess up, that is. Then all you can serve is excuses. When this happens to the best of businesses, it's a gentle reminder for the rest of us to heed our priorities.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Alleged collusion in paradise

The recent Bloomberg story of collusion between Best Sunshine, the governor and his siblings had most readers in coffee shops across the archipelago stunned, appalled, if not wowing! The bold and revealing narrative instantly went viral.

It asserts, "Imperial Pacific has made millions of dollars in payments to family members of the territory's governor, Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres." The reporter, Matthew Campbell, was asked of the assertive narrative that seemed to border on defamation. He said he's done checking and cross-checking with sources to pin down his facts. That it focused on connecting the dots is fodder for flies to swarm to death.

The piece further says, "When laws have become inconvenient to the company, they've been flouted; when the requirements of its contract with the government have become onerous, they've been removed; when legislators have tried to interfere, they've been ignored." There's solid evidence on this score and would discuss it next week.

The story went viral and understood how readers treat it as gospel truth, saying it "won't be published if it is false." Whether there's truth or falsity to the narratives is the purview of the governor and his siblings. How people see it—disdain or flattery—is all a matter of personal perception. Most, though, are capable of connecting the dots how power and greed could easily turn complimentary.

The Bloomberg piece instantly fostered suspicion and distrust in the affairs of the local government. The governor repudiated it, saying it's "politically motivated." But is Campbell doesn't even vote here. It's a revealing straight news story. Period!

Torres' answer drowns instantly versus the "wow" factor we've heard in coffee shops all over the archipelago. How do you erase the local community's treatment of rumor as "fact" first until further notice?

Be that as it may, it's impossible clearing the air on this score and not when the cat is out of the bag, so to speak. With social media having far larger wingspan than lamestream media, how do you control spread even of misinformation?

\$\$\$\$: The article says the casino business here makes \$2 billion per month, a huge sum that jolted even Macau, the casino mecca in the region. If it rakes in such huge sums, then why is our share limited to \$15 million per year? Why haven't legislators seen fit to tax at least 10 percent of it? Or have they involuntarily turn servile lapdogs to their sugar daddy to ensure moolah for their re-election?

Is it because the legislative mathematical methodology and derivative of 80 percent for salary increase is conveniently anomalous? Imagine \$200 million per month or \$2.4 billion tucked away in the local treasury.

Yet we put on Sears Roebuck ties and paddle across the sea and ask Washington, specifically, U.S. taxpayers, for more money ignoring taxing the largess at home? Humiliating!

WHAT

From Page 14

In a letter to Graham a month later, King praised Graham for working to integrate crusades.

"You have courageously brought the Christian gospel to bear on the question of race," King wrote Graham on Aug. 31, 1957.

King continued in an encouraging tone: "Your tremendous popularity, your extensive influence and your powerful message give you an opportunity in the area of human rights above almost any other person that we can point to."

Following King's assassination in Memphis in 1968, Graham was quoted saying the country had lost "a social leader and a prophet."

"I felt his death would be one of the greatest tragedies in our history," Graham said of King.

The King Center, a nonprofit formed in 1968 for people "to learn, be inspired and pay their respects to Dr. King's legacy," saluted Graham in a tweet Wednesday morning.

"Praying for his family as they mourn, while celebrating his transition into eternity. Bolstered by his messages of hope and work on behalf of humanity," the tweet read.

The assertion of the NMI being bought by Chinese money is very unsettling but not as troubling as the silent tail of destruction it drags behind it. It has begun moving steadily and its strength, in strange foreign influence, would change our simple way of life forever more. Do we accept our demise with grand acquiescence?

At day's end, home as we know would not be home any longer and not with the major shuffle gradually slammed against our people by casino owners. Whatever happened to cultural resiliency to avoid exchanging our culture for money? Have we been fooled by the anticipated glitz and glamour? I lament the gradual whip of the long and destructive tail of the growing monstrosity. Well, I've said my piece.

Perhaps Bloomberg ought to probe DPL and this administration's dealings on the Marpi land. Should be interesting find for public consumption.

Deficit diet: Has anyone identified the likely adverse impact of Trump's tax reduction program here? How much are we talking about in terms of dollar figure? Are we on a steady deficit diet building upon more debts, ignoring fiscal hawk's warning of overspending?

Would a diet succeed if you begin by weighing 200 lbs and six years later you weigh over 400 lbs? Would anyone in this position say, "I may be obese now, but at least I'm putting on the pounds at a slower pace"?

Reportedly, the NMI government owes CUC upwards of \$50 million, discounting what's owed vendors. CPA owes \$23 million. Then you factor in old debts, current deficit and obligations. Is revenue generation overflowing to cover obligations or are we nervously falling behind?

More bad tidings when the effect of Delta Air Lines' pullout

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Let us not CNMI'

In recent days we read news accounts that expressed some form of corruption may have been committed by our ruling elites in our government. Anytime the public domain is flooded by media reporting about any form of corruption, whether perceived or proven, it is a concerning thoughts for the electorate. Where greed, deceit, deception, or self-deception manifests itself, regardless of size, shape or form, it is a governing issue and the electorate should launch its greatest madness in protest against these ruling class who were placed in public trust in elected positions to rule. St. Paul's gospel makes it clear that the ruling class in position of authority have sacred responsibilities in their dealings on behalf of those they rule. Hence, putting them to shame for corruptible actions, intended or perceived, is the right thing to do and a rightful tool by the sovereign people. It is appropriate to say to them: "Let us not CNMI," with the acronym standing for: Corruption, no more integrity.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Losing to Guam

It is clear the governor of Guam is leading on the cannabis legalization issue because he knows it is serious for the sick and worth about hundreds of millions in dollars over time. Gov. Calvo even previously offered legislation that was rejected but he continues to fight for what is the right thing to do. More than anything Gov. Calvo's admonition prove that the CNMI is in competition with Guam and even Hawaii when it comes to full legalization, like I said over four years ago.

Given the looming potential for Guam to beat us in creating a cannabis industry, I must ask that famous question: "What you gonna do, senators?" This is not meant to be disrespectful but I have to ask what is taking so long because I am really tired of people asking me what is holding up the cannabis bill. One really can't blame people for asking, given that we are working on the fourth year in dealing with what has become a straightforward

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

takes its toll. Somehow, the Year of the Dog isn't friendly for the airline industry here: Delta is leaving, a small airline terminated Guam-Rota flights, and Star Marianas made an emergency landing here this week, sending two people to the hospital. Like Speaker Ralph Demapan said recently, "That took care of it!"

Rolex: At a weekday Mass, some folks sporting shiny gold Rolex take quick glances at their precious wristwatch. The color of gold reflecting flashes on the ceiling of the church was quite impressive.

Someone whispered that they hide the \$22K Rolex because it's bad public image. Said Magoo, "We know their salaries, so where did they get \$22K for their expensive wristwatch?"

Safety? The fire department is about to get stricter on parking in fire lanes in Garapan. Yet Best Sunshine doesn't have a functioning sprinkler system in its new facility. How are they going to get stricter on fire laws that affect the common people of the Marianas while being complicit in the breaking one of their own laws—sprinkler compliance—while bending over backwards for BSI?

and very acceptable issue. Other states are running and leaping to legalize cannabis while we are still crawling like a snail, staying true to the "dead last" record we continue to set when it comes to implementing national reforms.

I thought we were on a good pace to get it done this year, especially after the AG interceded to let the Senate know they need to either make it a bill or start all over with a petition drive. I think most people who are knowledgeable about legalization thought this would speed up the process and not slow it down because there is really no rational reason to start over with a petition drive, given the high level of acceptance for legalization in the CNMI. I can't reiterate it enough that people are living with pain and literally dying, never to have access to marijuana and marijuana products, which was the main reason the legalization bill was first drafted. Now, it has become a political football, with more Senate hearings that we do not need. For me, if Sen. Sixto is not going to drive the car, then he should at least withdraw the bill and get out of the way so someone else can do it for the people and the CNMI.

What are you waiting for, as there has been enough back-and-forth on this issue and the longer we wait the longer it will be for progress to take hold as it will still take over a year to get the cannabis industry up and running.

The great thing about legalization is there are virtually no more sound arguments against it, as all the myths and opposition claims have been debunked scientifically. I am respectfully asking the Senate to please stop playing politics and perform the overdue deed of legalizing marijuana and please don't forget the important measures I suggested:

1. Make sure locals get good career jobs with the opportunity for entrepreneurship.

2. Don't forget the government controls that will also allow for an easy creation of the cannabis industry in "partnership" with a laboratory. In fact, Guam is now stalled at the laboratory phase for creating their medical legalization and no idea about how they will supply their industry.






3. Don't forget the "amnesty period" so we won't be like Guam, with no idea or means of how the industry "strains" will be developed and supplied with marijuana, as this is a "self-starting industry" and we must start with the marijuana we have in the CNMI that needs to be "organized."

Ambrose M. Bennett

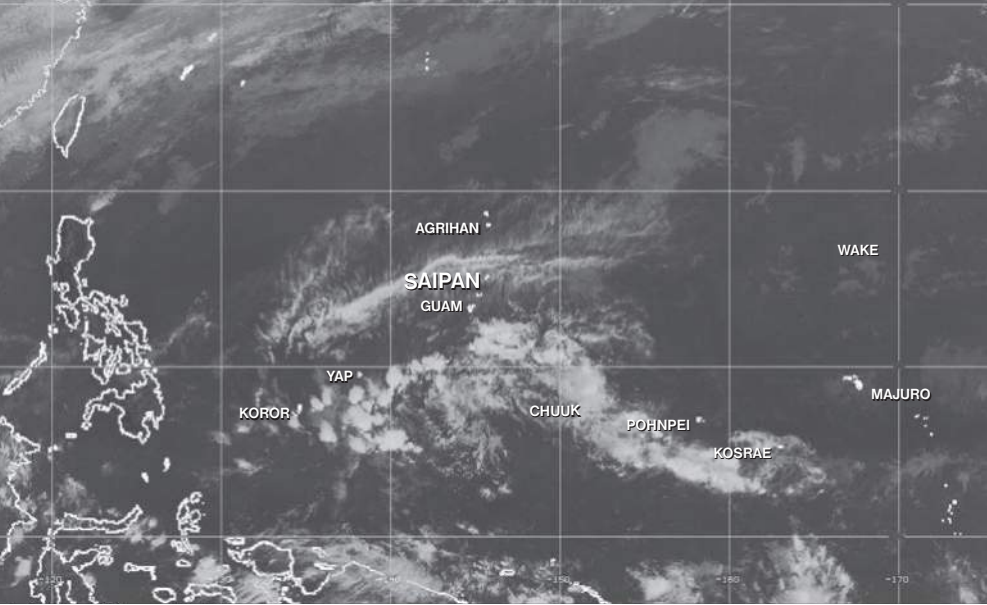
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the inherited forecast. Invest area 95W is passing to the south of Guam over eastern Yap state. As this system slowly drifts westward over the next few days, it will bring mostly cloudy skies and a few showers to the Marianas through tonight. Otherwise, a fairly dry weather pattern will continue through the weekend and into next week. Latest buoy readings show seas between 6 and 8 feet. Due to a decreasing north swell, surf has fallen below hazardous levels on north facing reefs. The risk of rip currents has also decreased to moderate as well.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	66° / 63°	
Honolulu	Thunderstorm	81° / 72°	
London	Mostly Sunny	43° / 28°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	61° / 40°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Rain	82° / 55°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 72°	
New York	Rain	43° / 41°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Paris	Sunny	41° / 27°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 41°	
Rome	Rain	54° / 45°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	80° / 59°	
San Francisco	Sunny	52° / 38°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	45° / 23°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	48° / 36°	
Washington, DC	Showers	52° / 48°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:08 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.51	
6:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.88	
12:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84	
7:55 PM	LOW TIDE	0.14	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:48 am	-	-
Saturday	-	12:52 am	12:40 pm
Sunday	-	1:51 am	1:36 pm
Monday	-	2:52 am	2:36 pm
Tuesday	-	3:51 am	3:38 pm

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

NMC Health Fair this Saturday

The Northern Marianas College Nursing Club is reminding community members about its health fair this Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The health fair will feature a number of free health activities including blood pressure and glucose assessments as well as flu immunizations and health counseling. The health fair will also have a 5K Walk from 6am to 8am. Registration for the 5K Walk will begin at

5:30am. Entrance to the health fair and the 5K Walk are free.

The CHCC Immunization Program, the Division of Youth Services, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Department of Youth Services, and Hardt Eye Clinic will be joining other organizations that will be hosting information and demonstration booths.

The health fair is supported with the assistance from the CNMI Area Health Education Center and other NMC and

community volunteers.

For additional information about the NMC Health Fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743. **(PR)**

Community members receive free blood pressure assessments at last year's annual health fair. This year's 9th annual NMC Health Fair will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center from 8am to 12pm and will feature a 5K walk at 6am.

NMC



'YOUR HUMANITIES HALF-HOUR'

Traditional lunar calendar in radio program



From left, Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Isidoru Cabrera, Stanley Taisacan, Jack Ogomoro, and Catherine Perry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" will feature several individuals who hold traditional knowledge about how the lunar calendar is utilized in Chamorro and Carolinian cultures for farming, fishing, navigation and sailing, and other purposes.

Guests are Jack Ogomoro, onsite coordinator for Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council; Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, a traditional navigator and member of the advisory panel of the Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar Committee; Isidoru Cabrera; and Stanley Taisacan, chairman of the advisory panel of the Chamorro Lunar Calendar Committee.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. It airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, with host Catherine R. Perry. **(PR)**



On behalf of the Office of the Governor, a public information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 05:00 p.m at the Tinian Youth Center. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the proposed USDA Community Facilities Grant application.

The grant will be used for the acquisition of an official vehicle for the Tinian Youth Center. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed project.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW-18-IFB-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A FRONT MOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Supply and Delivery of a Front Mower to the Department of Public Works**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 23, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 13, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 20, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **9:00 a.m. local time March 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **9:00 a.m. local time, March 26, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **April 4, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 9, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 26, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

Amid a flood of plastic, big companies try to clean up image

LONDON (AP)—Once a month, accountant Michael Byrne pulls on his rubber boots and makes his way to a spot on the banks of the River Thames.

He carefully marks out a one-square meter (11-square foot) patch and, with gloved hands, catalogues each bit of plastic he finds, meticulously reporting the data to the environmental group Thames21. On Aug. 20, for example, he and other volunteers found an average of 31 food wrappers, the sticks from 29 cotton swabs, 12 bottle tops and about 100 pieces of small chewed up plastic in each patch.

“We are the data gatherers” who provide evidence of the plastic that’s clogging the world’s rivers and oceans, he said. “We are building up a picture all along the river of what is washing up.”

Public awareness of the problem of plastic waste is swelling after alarming forecasts that there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans by 2050. Plus the shocking images are rolling in: Britain’s Sky News’ cam-



Plastic bottles and other plastics including a mop, lie washed up on the foreshore at the site of the ancient and no-longer used Queenhithe dock, a designated scheduled monument which dates back to at least the time of King Alfred the Great who lived from 849 to 899 AD, on the north bank of the River Thames in London, Monday, Feb. 5, 2018.

paign against ocean plastic featuring whales bloated by plastic bags; National Geographic’s chilling picture of a seahorse curled around a

pink cotton swab, and filmmaker David Attenborough’s documentary “Blue Planet II” footage of sea turtles shrouded in plastic.

And where consumers’ attention goes, so does that of companies. In the last few months, Amcor, Ecover, Evian, L’Oréal,

Mars, M&S, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Unilever, Walmart and Werner & Mertz—which together use more than 6 million metric tons of plastic packag-

ing per year—have committed to using only reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025, according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, an innovation think-tank.

Adidas, meanwhile, is making a line of clothing from recycled plastic bottles and promoting the products with an online video underscoring the health threat to humans of ingesting plastic particles found in fish. Negozio Leggero, a high-end food store in Italy and Switzerland, features 1,500 package-free products. British supermarket chain Iceland is planning to remove all plastic packaging from its own-brand products by 2023.

White House says US could reach 3 percent growth rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House’s top economist said Wednesday the U.S. could achieve annual growth rates of 3 percent through the next decade if President Donald Trump’s policies on regulations and infrastructure are enacted.

The Council of Economic Advisers released its annual economic report, which praises the effects of the tax cuts and tax overhaul signed into law by Trump last December. The report forecasts an overall average annual growth rate of 2.2 percent through 2028.

But with the “full implementation of the Administration’s agenda,” including the implementation of the tax law, additional cuts to regulation and a sweeping infrastructure plan, the projected growth rate reaches 3 percent through the next decade, said the report.

The economic projections are more subdued than the bold predictions made by the president in recent months. Trump suggested in Decem-

ber he saw “no reason why we don’t go to 4 percent, 5 percent, and even 6 percent.”

Yet even 3 percent growth for the next decade is much more optimistic than most independent economists’ forecasts. Wall Street economists generally expect the administration’s tax cuts will accelerate growth this year and next, to between 2.5 percent and 3 percent. But they expect the impact to fade by 2020.

“It seems unlikely and inconsistent with recent trends,” Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust, said, referring to the administration’s projection.

Federal Reserve officials have a similar view. Robert Kaplan, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, said Wednesday that the economy will likely expand just 1.75 percent to 2 percent in 2020.

Some of the benefit from tax cuts may be offset over time by higher interest rates. Fed officials have indicated

they expect to raise short-term rates three more times this year. Higher rates are intended to cool borrowing and spending.

Slower population growth and weak gains in productivity—a measure of the economy’s efficiency—are also weighing on the economy’s long-term growth rate, Kaplan said.

Kevin Hassett, chairman of the CEA, argues that the administration’s slashing of the corporate tax rate to 21 percent from 35 percent will spur more corporate investment in software, machinery and other equipment. That investment, in turn, should boost productivity and enable a faster expansion, Hassett says.

The report forecasts that productivity will grow at a 2.6 percent pace in the next decade, above its average rate of 2 percent in the past 50 years. That’s also more than double the rate in the past decade. Few analysts expect such a surge.

Beyond ‘Obamacare’: New liberal plan on health care overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—A major liberal policy group is raising the ante on the health care debate with a new plan that builds on Medicare to guarantee coverage for all.

Called “Medicare Extra for All,” the proposal to be released Thursday by the Center for American Progress gives politically energized Democrats more options to achieve a long-sought goal.

Still, the plan would preserve a role for employer coverage and for the health insurance industry. Employers and individuals would have a choice of joining Medicare Extra, but it would not be required.

That differs from the more traditional “single-payer” approach advocated by Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, in which the government would hold the reins of the health care system.

Even though the plan has no chance of passing in a Republican-controlled Congress, center president Neera Tanden said, “We think it’s time to go

bolder. There is consensus on the progressive side that universal coverage should be the goal and health care is a right.”

Picking up on the leftward shift among Democrats, Republicans are already working up rebuttals. President Donald Trump tweeted earlier this month that “Dems want to greatly raise taxes for really bad and non-personal medical care. No thanks!”

The Center for American Progress is a think tank that was closely aligned with President Barack Obama and 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. A 2005 proposal from the center foreshadowed Obama’s Affordable Care Act.

Medicare Extra would use Medicare’s thrifty payment system as framework to pool working-age people and their families, low-income people now covered by Medicaid, and seniors. A major missing piece: There’s no cost estimate for the plan, although its authors say that’s in the works.

The proposal comes at a time when polls show intense interest among Democrats and some independents in a government-run system that would guarantee coverage and benefits while reducing the complexity and out-of-pocket costs associated with private insurance. The future of health care is expected to be a defining issue in the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries, and political messages will be tested and honed in this fall’s midterm elections.

A nonpartisan expert who independently reviewed the Medicare Extra plan said it could provide Democrats with a middle way to achieve their longstanding goal of coverage for all.

“It’s an attempt to capture the enthusiasm for a single-payer system among the Democratic base, but trying to create a more politically and fiscally realistic roadmap,” said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

STOCK

PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

24,797.78

-166.97

-0.67%

S&P

2,701.32

-14.94

-0.55%

NASDAQ

7,218.23

-16.08

-0.22%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar

1.3777

British Pound

0.719

Canadian Dollar

1.27

Chinese Yuan

6.35

Euro

0.81

Hong Kong Dollar

7.83

Indian Rupee

65.02

Japanese Yen

107.35

Malaysian Ringgit

3.91

New Zealand Dollar

1.37

Philippine Peso

49.97

Russian Ruble

56.70

Singapore Dollar

1.32

South Korean Won

1,083.24

Swiss Franc

0.9392

Taiwan Dollar

29.27

Thailand Baht

31.61

Nation

Students across US walk out of class to protest gun violence

By COLLIN BINKLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a wave of demonstrations reaching from Arizona to Maine, students at dozens of U.S. high schools walked out of class Wednesday to protest gun violence and honor the victims of last week's deadly shooting in Florida.

The protests spread from school to school as students shared plans for their demonstrations over social media. Many lasted 17 minutes in honor of the 17 people killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Hundreds of students from Maryland schools left class to rally at the U.S. Capitol. Hundreds more filed out of their schools in cities from Chicago to Pittsburgh to Austin, Texas, often at the lunch hour. Thousands walked out in Florida.

At the protest in Washington, students held a moment of silence in memory of those killed in Parkland and listened as the names of the dead were recited. Daniel Gelillo, a senior at Richard Montgomery High in Rockville, Maryland, helped organize the protest and said students aimed to pressure lawmakers to act on gun control.



Up until now, he said, nothing has quite fazed them.

"The Orlando shooting, Las Vegas and now Parkland," he said. "Something has to happen. Innocent people are dying because of the easy access to firearms in this country."

At Dublin Scioto High School near Columbus, Ohio, about 200 students sat outside in silence for 17 minutes and wrote notes of support that will be mailed to survivors of the Florida shooting. Afterward, they gathered in a circle to discuss how they could push for stronger gun control.

"No child should have to go to school and be scared for their life," said Daviyana Warren, a 15-year-old sophomore at the school who walked out. "It hits close to home because it's happening to us."

While some groups have worked to organize national demonstrations in the coming

weeks, students say gatherings Wednesday were mostly impromptu and organized out of a sense of urgency to find solutions to gun violence.

Many of the protests were accompanied by chants of "Never again," which has been a rallying cry since the Florida shooting.

"These gun deaths are happening like every day, and we're not doing anything to change it. It's ridiculous," said Rebecca Parch, a student who organized a walkout at Lakewood High School, near Cleveland. "It's just too many lives lost, and I think that teenagers are just done with it now."

Students at her school and others called for limits on AR-15 rifles, the weapon authorities say 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz legally bought and used in the Florida attack. Teens at some schools called for a ban on the AR-15 and similar rifles among civilians, saying they should be reserved for military use.

Principals at some schools allowed the protests and promised not to punish students for leaving class. Parch said the administration at her school vowed to join students in similar demonstrations in the future. But some districts threatened to discipline those who joined the wave of walkouts.

A few hundred City High School students, including senior Seamus Turner, chant their calls for action as they participate in a peaceful walkout protest march to the federal courthouse building, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, in downtown Tucson, Ariz. I

Superintendent Curtis Rhodes, of Texas' Needville Independent School District, said students who left class would be suspended for three days, even with permission from their parents.

"Life is all about choices and every choice has a consequence whether it be positive or negative," Rhodes wrote in a letter to families and on social media. "We will discipline no matter if it is one, fifty or five hundred students involved."

Similar walkouts already are being planned, including on March 14, one month after the Florida shooting, and on April 20, the anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado.

While some students said their opinions have been belittled because they're still teenagers, they counter that they'll soon be voters and shouldn't be taken lightly. Some said they're taking a stand because lawmakers haven't.

"They send out their thoughts and their prayers, and we appreciate that, but that's enough," said Warren, of Dublin Scioto. "We need change."

The Florida high school shooter's lawyer has said he is sad, mournful and remorseful and has called him "a broken human being."

Again the question: Could armed teachers stop shootings?

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the aftermath of yet another mass school shooting, President Donald Trump says that if one of the victims, a football coach, had been armed "he would have shot and that would have been the end of it."

Revisiting an idea he raised in his campaign, Trump's comments in favor of allowing teachers to be armed come as lawmakers in several states are wrestling with the idea, including in Florida, where the 17 most recent school shooting victims are being mourned.

Assistant football coach Aaron Feis, hailed for shielding students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, "was very brave," Trump said Wednesday during a listening session with parents and survivors of school shootings. "If he had a firearm, he wouldn't have had to run."

Florida Republican Sen. Greg Steube said gun-free zones like schools are easy targets and has proposed allowing specially trained educators with military or law enforcement backgrounds to be armed.

"Our most valuable, most

precious resources are our children. Why in the world are we going to put them in a circumstance where there is nobody that is armed and trained at any of our schools to be able to respond quickly to an active shooter situation?" Steube told The Associated Press, even as students, including survivors of the Parkland shooting, rallied at the state's capitol in support of changes in gun laws.

Similar discussions have taken place in Kentucky, Colorado, North Carolina and Alabama in recent days and Wisconsin's attorney general said he's open to the idea.

"Our students do not need to be sitting ducks. Our teachers do not need to be defending themselves with a No. 2 pencil," Republican Alabama Rep. Will Ainsworth said in proposing a bill days after the Valentine's Day shooting in Florida.

The debate breaches statehouse walls, and teachers—and the public—are divided on the issue. A poll released this week by ABC News/Washington post says 42 percent of Americans believe teachers with guns could have prevented the Florida shooting.

Tearful student asks Trump, 'How do we not stop this?'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Spilling out wrenching tales of lost lives and stolen security, students and parents appealed to President Donald Trump to set politics aside and protect America's school children from the scourge of gun violence. Trump listened intently to the raw emotion and pledged action, including the possibility of arming teachers.

"I turned 18 the day after" the shooting, said a tearful Samuel Zeif, a student at the Florida high school where a former student's assault left 17 dead last week. "Woke up to the news that my best friend was gone. And I don't understand why I can still go in a store and buy a weapon of war. An AR. How is it that easy to buy this type of weapon? How do we not stop this after Columbine? After Sandy Hook?"

Trump promised to be "very

strong on background checks." And he suggested he supported allowing some teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons to be ready for intruders. But largely he listened Wednesday, holding handwritten notes bearing his message to the families. "I hear you" was written in black marker.

The president had invited the teen survivors of school violence and parents of murdered children in a show of his resolve against gun violence in the wake of last week's shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and in past years at schools in Connecticut and Colorado. The latest episode has prompted a renewed and growing call for stronger gun control.

Trump asked his guests to suggest solutions and solicited feedback. He did not fully en-

dorse any specific policy solution, but pledged to take action and expressed interest in widely differing approaches.

Besides considering concealed carrying of weapons by trained school employees, a concept he has endorsed in the past, he said he planned to go "very strongly into age, age of purchase." And he said he was committed to improving background checks and working on mental health.

Most in the group were emotional but quiet and polite.

But Andrew Pollack, whose daughter Meadow was killed last week, noted the previous school massacres and raged over his loss, saying this moment isn't about gun laws but about fixing the schools.

"It should have been one school shooting and we should have fixed it and I'm pissed. Because my daughter, I'm not

going to see again," said Pollack. "King David Cemetery, that is where I go to see my kid now."

A strong supporter of gun rights, Trump has nonetheless indicated in recent days that he is willing to consider ideas not in keeping with National Rifle Association orthodoxy, including age restrictions for buying assault-type weapons. Still, gun owners are a key part of his base of supporters.

The NRA quickly rejected any talk of raising the age for buying long guns to 21.

"Legislative proposals that prevent law-abiding adults aged 18-20 years old from acquiring rifles and shotguns effectively prohibits them for purchasing any firearm, thus depriving them of their constitutional right to self-protection," the group said in a statement.

Asia

Trump Jr: 'Nonsense' that family's profiting from presidency

NEW DELHI (AP)—Donald Trump Jr. said any talk of his family profiting from his father's presidency is "nonsense" during a trip to India that has raised ethical concerns about using the name of the American president to promote international business ventures.

The eldest son of President Donald Trump said his family is actually missing out on business opportunities because his father pledged to conduct no new foreign business while he was in office. Trump Jr. told Indian television channel CNBC-TV18 on Tuesday that when critics talk about them "profiteering from the presidency and all this nonsense" they forget about "the opportunity cost of the deals that we were not able to do."

"It's sort of a shame. Because we put on all these impositions on ourselves and essentially got no credit for actually doing that ... for doing the right thing," he added.

Trump Jr., who along with his brother Eric runs the Trump Organization, arrived in India on Tuesday to meet the promoters and buyers of luxury, Trump-branded homes in four Indian cities and is



The eldest son of U.S. President Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr. arrives for a meeting with journalists in Kolkata, India, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018.

scheduled to speak about Indo-Pacific relations at a business summit along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

His visit prompted a U.S. senator to ask if the embassy

in New Delhi had provided any aid or guidance. Sen. Robert Menendez, ranking Democratic on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, wrote that he expected the U.S. State

Department and embassy would treat Trump Jr. like any other American on private business and "will take every effort to avoid any perception of special treatment or a conflict of interest."

In the letter to Ambassador Kenneth Juster, Menendez asked if diplomats had briefed Trump Jr. during his visit or provided any support staff.

Menendez also asked Juster whether any steps were taken "to make clear to the Indian government and citizens of the country that Mr. Trump in no way speaks on behalf of the United States government."

The U.S. State Department, responding to questions from AP, said the embassy was supporting the Secret Service team responsible for Trump Jr.

but otherwise had no role in his visit. It said while the State Department assists with booking hotels and other travel arrangements, such costs are paid by the requesting agencies, such as the Secret Service.

The department also said that while some U.S. Embassy employees may attend the business summit where Trump Jr. is speaking, the ambassador would not be attending nor would he be meeting with Trump Jr.

Media access to his events in the country has been limited and only news organizations chosen by his team have had access to him.

With five projects under the Trump brand, India is its largest market outside the United States. The Trump Organization charges a licensing fee to its Indian partners who build the properties under the Trump name. A luxury complex is already open in the central city of Pune and the others are under construction in the coastal cities of Mumbai and Kolkata and two in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon.

All the projects were signed before President Trump took office, but promoting even existing business has raised ethics concerns.

Trump Jr. has made several visits to India over the years and has repeatedly talked of great business opportunities in the country.

Australia boosts Indian Ocean travel safety after MH370

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian authorities say they have helped make the Indian Ocean safer for air and sea travelers since Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 vanished in the vast expanse four years ago through search and rescue training with island nations.

Search and rescue officials from Mauritius, the Maldives and Sri Lanka are visiting the Australian Maritime Safety Authority headquarters in Canberra this week as part of a regional training program that began in 2015.

Rick Allen, an Australian search and rescue coordinator who is taking part in the training, said five Sri Lankan fishermen were rescued faster and more efficiently after their boat sank in 2016 thanks to the three countries having an Australian online broadcast system to alert merchant shipping to emergencies.

"We're all about strengthening the response options that are available in search and rescue. We're particularly dealing in that remote north-western part of the Indian Ocean," Allen said.

"Already we're seeing benefits. So the program not only involved work-shopping, meeting together, it also involved delivering sys-

tems and delivering tool that enable our partners to work more effectively in search and rescue," he added.

Australia has developed particular expertise in search and rescue operations that test the limits of the distances that search planes can stay airborne.

Because of Australia's isolation, the nation of just 24 million people has search and rescue responsibility for around 10 percent of the Earth's surface.

From a downtown second-floor control room in landlocked Canberra, the authority coordinated a massive multinational search by air and sea search for Flight 370.

The plane is thought to have crashed in the remote, far southern Indian Ocean on March 8, 2014.

The Boeing 777 with 239 passengers and crew on board was initially thought to have crashed on its flight path from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing. Subsequent information confirmed the plane had flown far off course.

Aircraft based in the west coast city of Perth searched for more than a month across more than 4.6 million square kilometers (1.8 million square miles) of ocean.

An aviation official from Mauritius has been attending the training sessions since they began in January 2015. A wing flap confirmed to be part of Flight 370 was found on a Mauritius beach in May 2016, brought by ocean currents from the presumed-but-still-not-found crash site.

"The great thing about this program is the human-centered approach," said Mohammad Karimbocus, chief officer in the Mauritius Department of Civil Aviation.

"It is also concentrating on getting people competent enough to deal with the unexpected and unlikely disaster scenario—all in the light of the MH370 tragedy," he added.

While Flight 370 motivated the program, officials worked on more mundane scenarios this week in Canberra's Joint Rescue Coordination Center, where maritime and aviation incidents are managed side by side.

The maritime officials handled the imaginary rescue of a merchant seaman who fell overboard from a cargo ship deck off the north Australian coast near the city of Darwin. Aviation officials dealt with a scenario of a light plane that reported smoke in the cockpit while flying toward Darwin.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Explosion at bank in northern Myanmar kills 2, wounds 21

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A bomb exploded Wednesday in a bank in the northern city of Lashio, a region where there is fighting between the government and ethnic minority guerrillas, killing two people and injuring 21 others, Myanmar authorities said. The Facebook page of army commander Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said officials were investigating whether a terrorist group was behind the explosion. Several ethnic rebel groups are active in northern Shan state, whose capital is Lashio, and those that have not signed a ceasefire with the government are often described as terrorists. The general's page identified the two fatalities as female employees of the Yoma Bank branch where the blast occurred. Military explosive experts, medics, local police and Red Cross workers rushed to the bank after the explosion, which occurred as it was closing for the day. Photos posted by the Information Ministry and on private social media accounts showed considerable damage to the bank, at two entrances. Vehicles parked outside also suffered damage.

Philippine rebels reject terror tag but still open to talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas say a Philippine government court petition to have them designated as terrorists is a desperate attempt to alienate them from the people and add they're "heaven and earth" dif-

ferent from extremists notorious for beheadings and other atrocities. Rebel commander Jaime Padilla said Thursday that President Rodrigo Duterte will fail like past leaders in defeating the New People's Army so he's resorting to "fake news" to undermine the guerrillas, who have managed to wage an insurgency for nearly 50 years with the people's support. Justice officials asked a court Wednesday to formally designate the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing as terrorist groups. Padilla says despite the move, the rebels remain open to a resumption of stalled talks to peacefully settle one of Asia's longest-raging insurgencies.

China says fire in sacred Tibetan monastery not arson

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities say they've ruled out arson as the cause of a fire that damaged a 1,300-year-old monastery that is one of Tibetan Buddhism's most sacred sites. The official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday's fire at the Jokhang in the center of the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, burned an area of about 50 square meters (538 square feet). The cause of the fire that broke out Saturday in a ventilating chamber was being investigated, though arson was ruled out. Xinhua said in its report Wednesday that all 6,510 registered cultural relics remained intact, including a famed life-size statue of the Buddha when he was 12 years old. Although the main structure was not damaged, workers had removed its golden cupola to guard against any collapse. The temple reopened on Sunday.

World

State witness turning point in Netanyahu corruption case

JERUSALEM (AP)—Now that one of Benjamin Netanyahu's closest confidants has turned state witness, according to Israeli media reports Wednesday, it may mark a turning point for the beleaguered prime minister facing a slew of corruption allegations that could topple him from power.

The testimony by Shlomo Filber, a long-time Netanyahu aide, is the latest in a dizzying series of developments and scandals that have engulfed the prime minister, his family and his inner circle.

Police would not confirm whether Filber would testify against Netanyahu, but all the major Israeli media outlets said a deal to do so had been reached.

Aluf Benn, editor-in-chief of the Haaretz daily, wrote Wednesday that "these are the final days of Benjamin Netanyahu's rule" and that "Netanyahu's leadership has been dealt a harsh blow, apparently a mortal one."

Filber, the former director of the Communications Ministry under Netanyahu, is under arrest on suspicion of promoting regulation worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Israel's Bezeq telecom company. In return, Bezeq's popular news site, Walla, allegedly provided favorable coverage of Netanyahu and his family.

The reports came shortly



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures as he speaks during the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018. AP

after another bombshell allegation that a different Netanyahu confidant attempted to bribe a judge in exchange for dropping a corruption case against Netanyahu's wife. Nir Hefetz, a longtime media adviser to Netanyahu and his family, remains in custody.

The prime minister, who held the communications

portfolio until last year, has not yet been named a suspect, though he may soon be questioned. Netanyahu has denied all the charges, calling them part of a media-orchestrated witch hunt that has swept up the police and prosecution as well, and has vowed to carry on.

Still, the string of accusations

appears to be taking its toll.

Senior Cabinet ministers from Netanyahu's ruling Likud party, who until just recently have marched out dutifully to defend him, have largely gone silent. Netanyahu himself appeared ashen in a video released late Tuesday calling the claims "total madness."

Netanyahu projected busi-

ness as usual on Wednesday evening.

At a gathering of Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, he spoke about Israel's diplo-

50 girls missing from Nigerian town after Boko Haram attack

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—About 50 girls have been missing since Boko Haram extremists attacked a village in northern Nigeria that has a girls' boarding school, provoking fears they may have kidnapped like those from the town of Chibok nearly four years ago.

Authorities had no credible information that those missing from the village of Dapchi were taken by Boko Haram, said Abdullahi Bego, a spokesman for the governor in Yobe state. Some witnesses, however, recalled seeing girls being taken by the armed militants of the group that abducted 276 girls from the school in Chibok in April 2014.

"I share the anguish of all the parents and guardians of the girls that remain unaccounted for," Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari tweeted Wednesday evening. "I would like to assure them that we are doing all in our power to ensure the safe return of all the girls."

Armed Boko Haram fighters invaded Dapchi on Monday evening, forcing residents, including students of Government Girls Secondary school, to flee into the bushes.

matic and technological successes as well as regional developments and the threat of "Iran's aggression." He made no mention of his domestic woes in the speech to major American Jewish organizations.

Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, a bitter rival of Netanyahu, told Channel 10 TV "there is no way back" for the premier. "This chapter in the political history of Israel is about to end," he said.

Barak said he closely knows Netanyahu and believes he "understands that this is the end of the story" but will try and postpone the inevitable in different ways.

Other leading Israeli columnists on Wednesday suggested that if Filber told all he knew, Netanyahu was probably more worried about avoiding prison than staying in office.

"When so many dark clouds accumulate in the sky, the chances of rain increase," wrote Nahum Barnea in Yediot Ahronot. "His appearance lent the fight he is waging the dimensions of a Shakespearean tragedy. This isn't the end. It isn't even the beginning of the end. But it cannot have a different end."

Police and the state ministry of education had initially denied claims that students were abducted.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Bego said more than 50 of the 926 students were still missing. Earlier reports indicated about 90 were not in class Tuesday, suggesting some had returned within the past 24 hours.

Student Aishatu Abdullahi was among those who escaped on foot and spent the night hiding in an abandoned house.

"They were shooting guns and everyone was confused. Then we started running all confused," she told reporters. "We saw some people pushing some of the students to enter their vehicles."

"Many of us are traumatized," she said, adding that the school had given students a one-week break after the ordeal. "But, in all honesty, I am not willing to come back here because we are scared of what could happen to us in the future."

About 100 of the 276 girls abducted by Boko Haram from Chibok in 2014 are still believed to be with their captors. Some escaped, while others were released as part of negotiations.

Hospitals overwhelmed by bombing blitz of Damascus suburbs

BEIRUT (AP)—Doctors in Syria's rebel-controlled suburbs of Damascus said Wednesday they were unable to keep up with the staggering number of casualties, amid a ferocious bombing campaign by government forces that has targeted hospitals, apartment blocks and other civilian sites, killing and wounding hundreds of people in recent days.

The bombardment has forced many among the nearly 400,000 residents to sleep in basements and makeshift shelters, and has overwhelmed rescue workers who have spent days digging out survivors from the wreckage of bombed out buildings.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate suspension of "all war activities" in the rebel-held Damascus suburbs known as eastern Ghouta where he said 400,000 people are living "in hell on earth."

The U.N. chief said a suspension of fighting must allow for humanitarian aid to reach all in need and the evacuation of some 700 people needing

urgent medical treatment.

Dr. Waleed Awata described a desperate, chaotic scene at the small hospital where he works as an anesthesiologist in the town of Zamalka, one of a cluster of settlements that make up eastern Ghouta. The facility, with just 17 beds, received 82 patients on Tuesday night alone, he said.

"We had to give them IVs and treat them on the floor," the 44-year-old physician told The Associated Press. He said the bodies of two women and two children killed in Wednesday's shelling were also brought to the hospital.

The hospital was struck Tuesday by barrel bombs—crude, explosives-filled oil drums dropped from helicopters at high altitudes—as well as sporadic artillery fire, Awata said. Like many hospitals in the area, patients had been moved into the basement to shield them from airstrikes. No one was hurt but the hospital's generator, water tanks and several ambulances were damaged.

Another doctor said he, too,

was as the hospital where he works in the town of Saqba when it came under attack Tuesday, killing some of the patients and forcing others to be moved to nearby homes because the airstrikes made it too dangerous to take them to other hospitals.

"By God, I am exhausted in every sense of the word," said the physician, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared for the safety of relatives in government-controlled areas of Damascus.

The international medical organization Doctors Without Borders said 13 hospitals and clinics that it supports have been damaged or destroyed over the past three days. The International Committee of the Red Cross called for immediate access to tend to the wounded, saying medical personnel in the rebel-held areas were unable to cope amid shortages of medicines and supplies.

Syrian government forces supported by Russian aircraft have shown no signs of letting up their aerial and artil-

lery assault on eastern Ghouta since they stepped up strikes late Sunday as part of a new, determined push to recapture the territory that has been controlled by rebels since 2012.

The U.N. human rights office said in a statement Wednesday that at least 346 people had been killed in eastern Ghouta since the Syrian government and its allies escalated their offensive on the region on Feb. 4. At least 92 of those deaths occurred in just one 13-hour period on Monday, it said, adding that the toll was far from comprehensive, documented in the midst of chaos and destruction. Another 878 people have been wounded, mostly in airstrikes hitting residential areas.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which closely monitors the fighting through activists on the ground, said at least 300 people have been killed since Sunday night alone. The dead included 10 people killed in a new wave of strikes Wednesday on the town of Kafr Batna.

Focus

AP
EXCLUSIVEMigrant
recounts his
deportation
from Israel

In this Sunday, Feb. 11, 2018, photo, Eritrean migrant Yohannes Tesfagabr, one of the tens of thousands of African migrants Israel has targeted for deportation, recounts his journey to The Associated Press in Kampala, Uganda.

AP

Inside the immigration office in Tel Aviv, Yohannes Tesfagabr considered his options. He could not dare return to his native Eritrea, a country he risked his life to flee in 2010. He also hoped to avoid the fate of compatriots who languished in a notorious desert jail for illegally staying in Israel.

So in an emotional confrontation with immigration officials one day last November, the 29-year-old sous chef accepted what Israeli authorities were offering: \$3,500 in cash and a one-way ticket to Uganda or Rwanda.

Two weeks later he was on a flight to Uganda, together with five other Eritrean migrants he did not know.

"They told me, 'If you don't leave you are going to jail,'" Tesfagabr recalled. "It's forced. They tell you to say you are going voluntarily, but it is not voluntary. They force you to deport yourself."

His case highlights the predicament of tens of thousands of Africans in Israel who face jail if they do not accept an offer, allegedly without further assurances of safety, to relocate to an unnamed African country. Both Uganda and Rwanda, widely presumed to be the likely destinations, have denied the existence of any agreement with Israel's government even though scores of migrants are believed to have already settled in the East African countries.

Tesfagabr said his group of Eritreans was not taken through the official immigration desk when they arrived in Uganda. Instead, they were ushered in via the cargo area, herded by a Ugandan official who stayed quiet most of the time. They were bundled into two taxis and driven to a hotel

in the capital, Kampala. Their passports were confiscated by a man who spoke Tigrinya, a language widely spoken in Eritrea, and who Tesfagabr believes had been hired as a translator. Hours later, they were turned out of the hotel—without their passports.

The five other men who traveled with Tesfagabr on a Nov. 16 EgyptAir flight to Uganda declined to talk to The Associated Press because of safety concerns. But Tesfagabr, although similarly worried, said he wanted to speak out because he felt he had been harshly treated during Israel's efforts to remove him from a country he had grown to love.

"My Hebrew is four times better than my English," he said one recent evening at a Kampala restaurant pa-

man who bought him food and new clothes. In Rehovot, the city south of Tel Aviv where he settled, he found a satisfying job as a sous chef in a bistro. He had an apartment and a bank account, but he had to get his visa renewed every two months and sometimes he was required to report back after five days.

When two compatriots with whom he shared an apartment were jailed for overstaying their visas, Tesfagabr knew his days were numbered and seriously began thinking about leaving Israel.

"They take you like a dog, like a donkey," he said, talking about migrants taken to the Holot detention center in the Negev desert. "They do what they want. They don't have

Israel contends that most of the migrants are job seekers and cites complaints that they have transformed working-class neighborhoods of southern Tel Aviv into unrecognizable slums. Israeli authorities say women, children and families are exempt from the deportation order.

This month thousands of African asylum seekers protested outside the Rwandan Embassy in Israel, calling the deportations racist and urging Rwanda's government not to cooperate. They claim they have no rights in Uganda and Rwanda and quickly are forced to flee toward Europe through war-torn countries like Libya.

Okello Oryem, Uganda's deputy minister of international affairs, described reports of a deal to take in

taken to a hotel in the capital, Kigali, for two days and then transferred to Uganda, forced to pay for their travel. He was unsure whether the transfer to Uganda was carried out via official channels.

The two migrants he met, who had been in Rwanda for two and three years respectively, were unable to work and scraped by on the remainder of the money they had received from Israel, he said.

"The refugees will arrive in these countries and will not receive refugee status, their documents will be taken from them and they will be left with nothing," Raz said. "Rwanda is only participating in this agreement because of the money it will receive from Israel. Senior government officials in Rwanda claimed that such an agreement does not exist and so there is nothing to discuss. We believe such an agreement does exist."

This month the speaker of Uganda's national assembly urged the government to explain the alleged deportations. It remains unclear when that will happen. Musa Ekwere, Uganda's top refugee official, did not respond to a request for comment. The U.N. migration agency's office in Uganda told the AP it had not been contacted by the government and knew only "bits and pieces" about the alleged deportations from media reports.

Tesfagabr, the Eritrean migrant, is now jobless, without a passport and dependent on his savings to pay the rent. The soft-spoken man said he feels like a prisoner and dreams of relocating to Europe. To relax, he sometimes plays soccer with his friends, fellow Eritreans with a similarly uncertain future.

"I want to start a new life," he said, fiddling with his phone. (AP)

“They do what they want. They don't have any law for us ... Because I know if I go over there, I can't be a human being after.”

tronized by Eritreans.

Tesfagabr, a village boy from Eritrea's highland area of Debarwa who felt hopeless after being forcefully conscripted into the army, arrived in Israel in 2012, the victim of alleged traffickers in Sudan who took him to Egypt and helped him cross a border point in the Sinai after his family was made to pay a \$3,900 ransom. He remembered his days in captivity as some of the worst of his life. To force his parents to pay for his freedom, his captors beat him and staged mock executions. At least two of his compatriots were killed in a shootout with Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai, he said.

But after crossing into Israel, Tesfagabr benefited from random acts of kindness, including from an Israeli

any law for us ... Because I know if I go over there, I can't be a human being after."

This month Israeli authorities began distributing deportation notices to some 40,000 African migrants, who have until April 1 to comply. Nearly all are from Eritrea and Sudan, countries with questionable human rights records. Thousands had entered the country until 2014, when Israel completed a massive border fence.

The deportation plan has sparked outrage in Israel, where groups of pilots, doctors, writers, rabbis and Holocaust survivors have appealed to have it halted. They say the deportations are unethical and would damage Israel's image as a refuge for Jewish migrants.

migrants from Israel as "fake news," and in a statement Rwanda's government insisted it "has never signed any secret deal with Israel regarding the relocation of African migrants."

Mossi Raz, an Israeli lawmaker who recently traveled to Rwanda and Uganda in a delegation of opposition politicians to investigate the allegations of an official deal with those countries, said his group concluded that the arrangement "does not ensure the safety and well-being of the refugees."

Raz said the delegation met with two migrants who are believed to be among the few remaining in Rwanda. He said others who were sent from Israel to Rwanda, believed to be in the hundreds or even thousands, were

Off The Wall

Brawl on a Pacific cruise liner sends guests fleeing to cabins

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—A South Pacific cruise was interrupted by brawls apparently caused by a 23-member family who threw punches at other passengers, some of whom said they locked themselves in cabins to escape three days of violence.

The Carnival Legend arrived in its home port of Melbourne on Saturday, a day after a family was offloaded in an unscheduled stop in Eden, New South Wales in Australia. Police said they were investigating the incident and the operator apologized for the “disruptive behavior” by the group that was removed from the cruise liner.

The “big Italian family” spent days attacking Australia-

lians aboard the ship, with people “getting strangled and punched up,” passenger Lisa Bolitho told reporters.

“Very violent, they were full-on attacks,” she said.

She also questioned the ship’s management, quoting the captain as saying, “What do you want me to do about it—throw them overboard?”

Cellphone video footage purportedly of the brawl on Friday shows security guards fighting and trying to separate passengers amid shouting and kicking.

Bolitho’s son Jarrah said he was among those targeted and fled and locked himself in the cabin with his mother.

“I was watching the fight and one guy came up to me

and said ‘Do you want to go too bro?’” he said, adding the offenders were in their late teens and early 20s. “My mum had to drag me away from it all. They were trying to pick on any Aussie they could find.”

Carnival Cruise Line said it was offering guests a 25 percent future cruise credit as a “goodwill gesture” but some passengers criticized the offer.

“I won’t be travelling Carnival ever again so a 25 percent off a future cruise in my eyes is unacceptable,” Mark Morrison said.

The cruise liner with more than 2,000 passengers was on a 10-day trip from Melbourne to New Caledonia, a French territory in the South Pacific.

owl but its pigeon prey might be scared off. Colorful crow-sized Cooper’s hawks have become common in cities and suburbs where flocks of pigeons and birdfeeder visitors make easy pickings.

Tar cakes tires, slows commute on New Jersey highway

OLDMANS TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—It was a sticky commute on a New Jersey interstate after tar coated the highway. State Trooper Alejandro Goetz says the tar was in the center and right southbound lanes along a 5-mile (8-kilometer) stretch of Interstate 295 in Salem County just after 5:30 a.m. Tuesday. The trooper says about 20 vehicles reported going over the tar between mileposts 13 and 8. The tar stuck to their tires and wheels. There were no accidents or injuries. Workers scraped the tar from the road. State Police are trying to determine where the tar came from.

Nothing to see here! Police clear T-Rex walking student

EAST LANSLOWNE, Pa. (AP)—Police in a Philadelphia suburb received an unusual report about a dinosaur on the loose. But officers in East Lansdowne did not panic and took things in stride when they realized what was happening. They posted a video showing a person in a Tyrannosaurus rex costume “taking their kid to school” on Tuesday. Officers concluded their report: «No problem. Clear.”

Massachusetts transit bosses under fire for \$100K bathroom

BOSTON (AP)—Massachusetts transportation officials

are under fire for authorizing a no-bid contract for a tiny, \$100,000 bathroom inside a state office building. WCVB-TV reports that the 115-square-foot bathroom and adjoining kitchenette was installed last year at the State Transportation Building inside the new state Transportation Department and MBTA board room. The project was fast-tracked and not put out to bid, which is usually done for state projects to make contractors compete for the work and keep costs down. Greg Sullivan, a former state inspector general who’s now research director at the Pioneer Institute, called the cost “outrageous.” The bathroom is about 40 steps from a spacious public bathroom on the same floor. A spokesman for the Transportation Department says board members are sometimes followed to that bathroom by reporters during public meetings.

Runaway cow defends its freedom in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A local governor in Poland says a cow that escaped while being taken to a slaughterhouse is still avoiding capture even though the order to kill it has been canceled. The red Limousin beef cow that fled last month has gained celebrity status as it defends its life and freedom, roaming a lake-filled region near Nysa, in the southwest of the country. Governor Czeslaw Bilobran said Wednesday the cow is “cunning and clever and uses the difficult terrain to trick the search group,” swimming from island to island. When caught, it will be put in a local animal reserve. “It is so brave and strong-headed that we decided to keep it,” Bilobran told The Associated Press.

Science & Technology

Google expands to Nest camera

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google’s voice-activated assistant is branching out to Nest’s deluxe security camera in an expansion that may amplify the privacy concerns surrounding internet-connected microphones.

The virtual assistant is being offered to owners of the Nest Cam IQ in a free update rolling out Wednesday. The move comes just two weeks after Nest moved back under Google’s direct control after spending nearly 2 1/2 years as a separate company owned by the same parent, Alphabet Inc.

The \$300 Nest Cam will give Google another potentially valuable earhole in its battle with Amazon and Apple to build digital command centers in people’s home.

That ambition has already spurred warnings from privacy watchdogs about the potential for internet-connected devices being used as surveillance tools.

Google’s assistant already can be used to control Nest’s cameras and internet-connected thermostat through its internet-connected speaker, Home, and smartphones running on its Android software. This will be the first time that people will be able to interact with the digital concierge



This July 25, 2017, file frame grab from video shows the Nest Cam IQ camera. Google’s voice-activated assistant is branching out to Nest’s deluxe security camera.

through a security camera.

The assistant is only supposed to be activated with keywords such as “OK, Google,” although there have been instances when the Home speaker has been caught listening when it was supposed to be turned off.

Even if Google’s assistant doesn’t eavesdrop, its presence on an indoor security camera is likely to focus more attention on the handling and protection of the data collected through internet-connected devices.

Privacy watchdogs are particularly worried that Google eventually may use some of the information collected from devices inside homes to get a better understanding of a person’s specif-

ic interests so it can sell ads for products that the targeted individual might like.

Google already has used the data that it collects through its ubiquitous search engine and other free services such as maps and email to build the internet’s most lucrative internet marketing network.

Since Google bought it for \$3.2 billion, Nest has steadfastly maintained that it doesn’t share its customers’ personal information with Google’s ad network.

But a patent application filed by Google in 2016 floated the possibility of using the video recorded by security cameras to deliver ads based on the kinds of furnishings and other merchandise already in people’s homes.

Science Matters

Why some get cold hands fast and some don't

Researchers have found that muscle mass predicts how fast a person loses heat from the hands in severe cold, while height, body weight and fat mass do not.



Scan shows how cold hands are

Fingers chill quickly because they have a large surface area and small volume. Images at left are infrared camera pictures of hands showing effect of soaking in ice water.

Analyzing effect of body type

1 Hands of 114 volunteers age 18 to 50 were imaged with an infrared camera

2 They then submerged their hands in ice cold water for 3 minutes



3 Warmth of specific areas of the fingers was then measured

4 The cooling was compared statistically with each person’s body measurements

Fat insulates, but muscles are crucial, producing heat to warm the rest of the body – and the hands



Study found great variation among individuals



Source: Stephanie Payne of University of Cambridge; American Journal of Physical Anthropology; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Weinstein uses quotes from female celebrities in his defense

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harvey Weinstein wants a judge to dismiss a federal sexual misconduct lawsuit against him and invoked the words and actions of Oscar-winning actresses including Meryl Streep in his defense.

Lawyers for the disgraced film mogul said Tuesday in federal court in New York that the proposed class-action lawsuit filed by six women should be rejected because the alleged assaults took place too long ago and they failed to offer facts to support claims of

racketeering.

Weinstein was one of the most powerful men in the movie industry before allegations that began emerging in October dethroned him and unleashed a torrent of sexual misconduct accusations that spread far beyond the entertainment industry.

His lawyers cited comments made by Streep in a statement she released last October saying Weinstein had always been respectful in their working relationship.

In a blistering response

Wednesday, she said misusing her statement “as evidence that he was not abusive with many OTHER women is pathetic and exploitive.”

“The criminal actions he is accused of conducting on the bodies of these women are his responsibility,” Streep continued, “and if there is any justice left in the system he will pay for them.”

The lawsuit, which could potentially involve hundreds of other women, said



Streep

Weinstein assaulted young women trying to break into Hollywood when they were alone with him and that his former film companies operated like an organized crime group to conceal widespread sexual harassment and assaults.

Saying that the proposed class of affected women was “fatally overbroad,” lawyers for Weinstein said that the suit would include all women Weinstein ever met, whether they

even claimed to be harmed.

The filing written by attorneys Phyllis Kupferstein and Mary Flynn also questioned the veracity of claims that the women who sued were under duress because of threats Weinstein made if they complained. It cited Gwyneth Paltrow as an example, saying she went on to work with Weinstein and win an Oscar for “Shakespeare in Love” in 1998 after he was accused of harassing her during the filming of “Emma” in 1994.

“Paltrow was not so offend-

ed that she refused to work with Weinstein again, nor did her career suffer as a result of her rebuffing his alleged advances,” the court papers said.

The filing also cites Jennifer Lawrence telling Oprah Winfrey that she had known Weinstein since she was 20 and said “he had only ever been nice to me,” according to the filing.

Representatives for Lawrence and Paltrow did not immediately reply to messages from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Will and Jaden Smith create eco-friendly water company

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jaden Smith’s environmental consciousness was born when he was out surfing at about age 10. He saw plastic water bottles bobbing in the ocean beside him, and he was so upset by it that he told his parents.

Then he learned in school about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, those floating “islands” of garbage and plastic debris, and insisted that his family do something about it.

The result is Just, an eco-friendly bottled water company founded by Smith and his famous dad, Will Smith. The company makes its packaging from almost entirely renewable resources, including “plastic” derived from sugarcane.

“This was a company born out of a child’s love for the ocean,” Will Smith told The Associated Press during an interview with the father-son entertainment duo about their company’s new offering: flavored water. They established the company in 2015, but the elder Smith said he wanted to wait until it gained momentum on its own merits before revealing the brand had celebrity backing.

“We did not want this to be a celebrity brand,” he said.



In this Aug. 1, 2016 file photo, Jaden Smith, left, and his father Will Smith attend the world premiere of “Suicide Squad” in New York. AP

“We’re just about to launch our second product and we felt like there were enough people who already have accepted the brand and it wouldn’t look like celebrities trying to sell some water.”

Jaden Smith’s passion for the company’s mission—reducing plastic and carbon dioxide emissions globally—is

evident when he speaks about it, as well as in various videos he’s released talking about climate change, sustainability and renewable resources. The 19-year-old said he’s visiting schools to spread awareness about the problems caused by plastic and pollution and to inspire young people to help find solutions.

“School and education is where it all starts, because that’s where it started for me,” he said, adding that he tells students: “I just want you to know that I came up with this idea when I was your age, and that means you have the infinite ability to come up with any idea or any way that you want to change the world.”

Dua Lipa, Stormzy win as Brit Awards join ‘Time’s Up’ call

LONDON (AP)—Hometown London stars Dua Lipa and Stormzy were both double winners Wednesday at the U.K. music industry’s Brit Awards, where many guests wore white roses to symbolize the fight against sexual harassment and assault.

Stormzy, who has helped propel the grime genre of rap into the commercial mainstream, was named best male British solo artist, and also won album of the year, for his debut “Gang Signs and Prayer.”

Taking the stage, he thanked

God, his mother, his family his team and south London, where he grew up.

Stormzy said the album was “the hardest thing, I’ve never worked on something like this in my life.”

“I’ve never given my entire being, I didn’t have anything left after... we made something I feel that is undeniable, that I can stand by today,” he said.

Stormzy also energized a show that bordered on bland. In an electric closing performance, he put Britain’s prime minister on the spot, singing

“Theresa May, where’s the money for Grenfell” in reference to last year’s deadly London tower block blaze.

Lipa, whose self-titled debut was one of 2017’s breakout albums, was named British female solo artist and British breakthrough artist.

Lipa dedicated her solo artist trophy to all the female musicians who “have allowed us to dream this big.”

“Here’s to more women on these stages, more women winning awards and more women taking over the

world,” said Lipa, who topped U.K. charts with her catchy breakup anthem “No Rules.”

Following up on gestures at the Golden Globes, Grammys and British film awards, guests at Britain’s biggest music awards show were given flowers or white rose pins to wear in solidarity with the Time’s Up movement.

Calls for change have swept through the entertainment industry since women began coming forward to accuse Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein last year.

Sally Field busts out old outfits at costume guild awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Wonder Woman’s gilded bustier, the spangled skating dresses in “I, Tonya” and the subdued shades of the 1960s as shown in “The Shape of Water” were among the finest costumes of the year, according to the Costume Designers Guild.

The union celebrated the year’s outstanding work in film and television at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Tuesday night at its 20th annual awards show. Hosted by actress Gina Rodriguez, the evening included special honors for Guillermo del Toro and Kerry Washington, and concluded with Sally Field bringing a tote bag of movie memorabilia onstage.

The Oscar-winning actress was on hand to present a career achievement award to costume designer Joanna Johnston, whose many credits include “Saving Private Ryan,” “Love Actually,” “The Sixth Sense” and two collaborations with Field: “Forrest Gump” and “Lincoln.”

Field pulled a fuzzy pink sweater from her tote bag before introducing the honoree. It was a handmade piece that Mrs. Gump wore when she told Forrest Gump that “life is like a box of chocolates.”

“It’s such a specific choice for such an important scene—Mama Gump’s death—and it speaks in ways words can’t,” Field said.

She also showed off a quilt fashioned from pieces of each of Mary Todd Lincoln’s sweeping gowns that Johnston made her as a souvenir from that 2012 film.

“I will pass it around,” she said. And while she did not, she did pose with it onstage.

“All right, who else is going to pull out their quilt?” Rodriguez asked, playfully going off-script throughout the evening.

While the Oscars and Emmys also recognize costume design, the guild’s awards are

broken into categories that highlight the intricacies of contemporary, period and sci-fi or fantasy designs.

Film-wise, “Wonder Woman” won for sci-fi/fantasy, “I, Tonya” took the prize for contemporary and “The Shape of Water” (also up for the costume design Oscar) won for period attire. In television, “Game of Thrones” won for sci-fi/fantasy, “The Crown” won for period and “The Handmaid’s Tale” was the contemporary winner.

As “Handmaid’s Tale” designer Ane Crabtree accepted her award, she removed the long black gloves she’d been wearing to reveal that she’d written “Time’s Up” and “Me Too” on her palms.

“We are part of the resistance,” she said.

Many designers wore black in solidarity with the Time’s Up movement, of which costume designer Arianne Phillips is a founder (and designer of the pins all of Hollywood has been wearing). The crowd was also exceptionally stylish, with several neon hair colors and at least one sequined suit spotted among the guests.

A visibly pregnant Eva Longoria and “Scandal” costume designer Lyn Paolo presented Washington with the guild’s Spotlight Award. Paolo called the actress “the most stunningly great collaborator any costume designer could ever have.”

Washington returned the praise, saying that besides supporting her daily on “Scandal,” Paolo understood the power of a pair of shoes.

“I don’t really know who a character is until I know what shoes she wears,” Washington said. “Because the shoes tell me how I walk, they tell me how I stand; they tell me who I am... These costume designers have helped me to figure out how to have a different walk and be a different person.”

Wonder Woman and Luke Skywalker expected at the Oscars



AP
Gina Rodriguez raises a light-saber as she introduces Mark Hamill at the 20th annual Costume Designers Guild Awards at The Beverly Hilton hotel on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wonder Woman and Luke Skywalker will be at the Academy Awards—or at least the actors who play them onscreen.

Oscar producers announced Wednesday that Gal Gadot and Mark Hamill will appear

on the show, along with fellow “Star Wars” actors Oscar Isaac and Kelly Marie Tran.

Producers say Lin-Manuel Miranda, Gina Rodriguez, Armie Hammer and Zendaya also have been booked as presenters.

Previously announced stars

appearing on the March 4 telecast include “Black Panther” Chadwick Boseman, comedian Tiffany Haddish, “Spider Man” Tom Holland and Margot Robbie.

Jimmy Kimmel is hosting the show, which will be broadcast at 8 p.m. Eastern on ABC.

‘Black Panther’ screening halted after woman shouts slur

SPARTA, N.J. (AP)—Police in New Jersey say a movie theater had to halt a showing of “Black Panther” after a woman yelled a racial slur, upsetting the rest of the audience.

Sparta Police Lt. John Lamont said Tuesday the woman was “extremely in-

toxicated” and was not yelling at anyone in particular. NJ.com reports police did not file charges, as only one person at the Sunday showing could identify the woman who yelled the slur.

Police say the witness declined to sign a complaint.

Lamont says the woman was banned from the theater, and the rest of the audience was given vouchers to return at another time to see the film.

“Black Panther” broke box office records when it opened this weekend with approximately \$235 million in ticket sales.

Less is more: Why the Olympics broadcast beats online

NEW YORK (AP)—When it comes to the Olympics, too much choice can paralyze you with indecision. With five television channels, online streaming, virtual reality and Snapchat, where do you even start?

Catch curling on the USA Network, and you might miss that superb—or disastrous—figure skating routine that will be talked about on social media and in the office. Tune into a stream of figure skating, and you might miss that medal-winning run down the slopes.

With an event as sprawling as the Olympics, sometimes the straight-up linear TV broadcast is best, even if you’re watching that online. Experts make the choices for you; all you have to do is lean back on your couch.

That’s not to say alternatives

to the main NBC broadcast are pointless. Die-hard fans of biathlon can choose that and nothing else. Snapchat users who might have skipped the Olympics entirely might at least catch the few minutes of live video offered there each day.

NBC’s websites and apps let you catch up on what you missed—though with more than 175 hours of programming on the main channel alone, catching up might have to wait until after the games end.

Among the online standouts:

■ **THE GOLD:** Online streaming brings equality.

NBC focuses heavily on Americans and a handful of medal contenders from other countries in popular sports. To see otherwise obscure athletes, you’ll have to catch one of the

online streams. Every event is being shown in its entirety online, complete with graphics, slow-motion replays and commentary from the International Olympic Committee’s Olympic Broadcasting Services. It feels like a broadcast—just not an American-centric one.

■ **THE SILVER:** Virtual reality offers alternative perspectives.

The 30 events in VR work better as a behind-the-scenes companion than as a replacement for television. For instance, after an athlete starts sliding down the skeleton track, you see crews with brooms fixing the ice for the next competitor. With figure skating, you can linger at the “kiss and cry” area as competitors wait for their scores; television typically cuts to replays.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Mitch Albom plans sequel to ‘Five People You Meet in Heaven’

NEW YORK (AP)—Mitch Albom is giving heaven a sequel. Publisher Harper tells The Associated Press that Albom’s “The Next Person You Meet in Heaven” is coming out Oct. 16. The novel is a follow-up to Albom’s best-selling “The Five People You Meet in Heaven,” which came out in 2003. The new book continues the stories of Eddie the maintenance man and of Annie, the young girl whose life he saves while losing his own. Albom says in a statement Wednesday that readers often asked him what happened to Eddie and Annie. He says the “The Next Person You Meet in Heaven” was a “natural” for him to write. “The Five People You Meet in Heaven” was adapted into a 2004 TV movie starring Jon Voight and Ellen Burstyn.

Next flight to Wakanda? Airports having some fun on Twitter

Now boarding the next flight to ... Wakanda? Some airports had fun this week on Twitter with the futuristic African country in the hit movie “Black Panther.” Orlando International Airport tweeted a photo of an airplane bearing the words “Wakanda Air” and a black panther logo. The tweet said the airport was “delighted to announce ... daily nonstop flights to the beautiful nation of Wakanda.” Hartsfield-

Jackson Atlanta International Airport tweeted a photo of a sign listing a 7:30 p.m. departure to Wakanda with the words, “The bags are packed. #Wakanda forever.” Lupita Nyong’o tweeted back, “Apart from La Femme Nakia, what else is on the in-flight entertainment? T’Challa’s Angels, M’Baku To The Future, Shuri’s Gotta Have It, Killmonger Bill, W’Kabi In The Woods...?” (AP)

Universal launches plans for third ‘Jurassic World’ film

NEW YORK (AP)—Four months before “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” hits theaters, Universal Pictures has announced plans Wednesday for a third installment in the rebooted dinosaur franchise. Universal says “Jurassic World 3” will land in June 2021. The film is to be written by Emily Carmichael and Colin Trevorrow, the director of 2015’s “Jurassic World.” Carmichael co-wrote the upcoming sci-fi adventure “Pacific Rim Uprising.” “Jurassic World” ranks among the biggest box-office hits. It launched with a \$208.8 million opening weekend and finished with \$1.7 billion worldwide in ticket sales. Trevorrow and Steven Spielberg are executive producing each new “Jurassic World” film. Directed by J.A. Bayona, “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,” starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, opens June 22.

Parents fall short on promises to help their ailing daughter

DEAR ABBY: I suffer from a debilitating, rare, chronic illness. Two years ago, my parents convinced me to move across the country to live with them in a city I’ve never lived in. They promised it would be “only for a year,” they’d pay the cost of moving and finance a “year of wellness.” I was to receive acupuncture, massage therapy, physical therapy, help from doctors, a personal trainer, etc.

They paid to move me, but have not followed through with any of their promises to help treat my disorder. What’s more, I have had to fit an entire apartment’s worth of furniture and other items into a small bedroom, and I’m not allowed to use the rest of the house.

Now that I am here, I can’t afford to pay to move back east or possibly find a place to live or work without being established in this new city. Is there a way to address the predicament I am now in and the fact that they relocated me without keeping their promises? I’m extremely shy and have made no friends in this town these past two years.

DESPERATE DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: You should not be isolated the way you are. And you need more help than I can give you in a letter. From your description, you are a prisoner in your parents’ home. Contact your doctor back east about what has been going on. Of course, if you have friends there, you should alert them, too.

You will not get better living as you are. For your parents to have promised help and reneged is inexcusable. If there is an organization that supports your rare illness, it should

be contacted too. Please do not wait.

DEAR ABBY: I’m 22 and I’m dating this amazing guy a couple of years older than me. He really checks off so many things on my “list,” I can’t help but be attracted to and appreciate him. He is a good guy, good looking, real smart and our values match up. We also have a really good vibe together.

Here’s the issue: He is not as tall as I would prefer. He’s not super short, but we are the same height and when I wear shoes with a small heel, he’s slightly shorter.

I don’t know why I’m still thinking about the height thing when I could really see us together long term. Am I being superficial? What should I do?

UNSURE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR UNSURE: Ask yourself this: Is your self-confidence so lacking that you would seriously allow his height to bother you? If the fact that you would be self-conscious wearing heels with him could deter you from a long-term relationship, you should let him go because your values are not as alike as you would like to think.

DEAR ABBY: My husband passed away nine months ago at the age of 52. I miss him every day.

Recently, a man who was a friend of ours asked me out on a date. I must be honest—the last nine months have been very sad and lonely, so when he asked me, I experienced a mixed

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



bag of emotions. Would it be wrong to accept his invitation? And how do I deal with the guilt I’m feeling because I would like to go out with him?

MUST BE MOVING AHEAD IN VIRGINIA

DEAR MUST BE MOVING AHEAD: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your husband. It’s not surprising that the period since his passing has been difficult for you. There is no set timetable for grieving the loss of a loved one. If you feel the time is right to have companionship again, you should not feel guilty about it. Go, girl, go.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

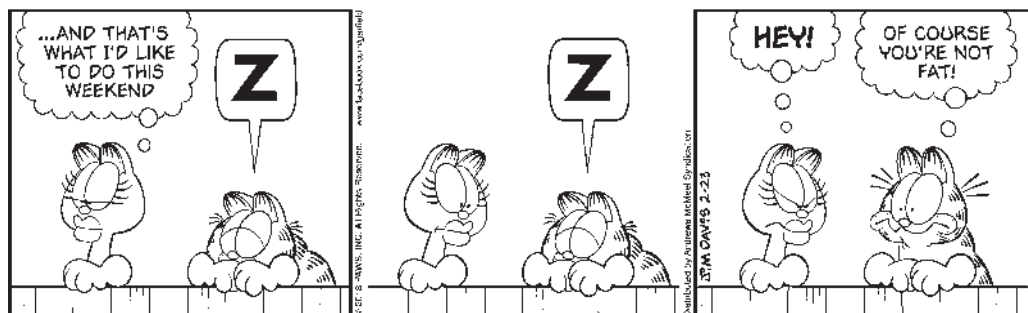
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



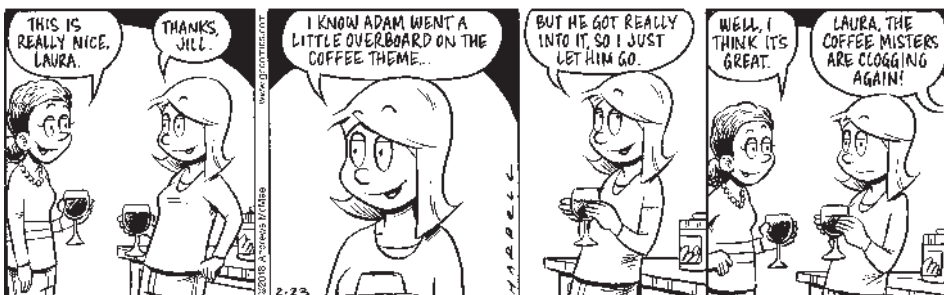
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



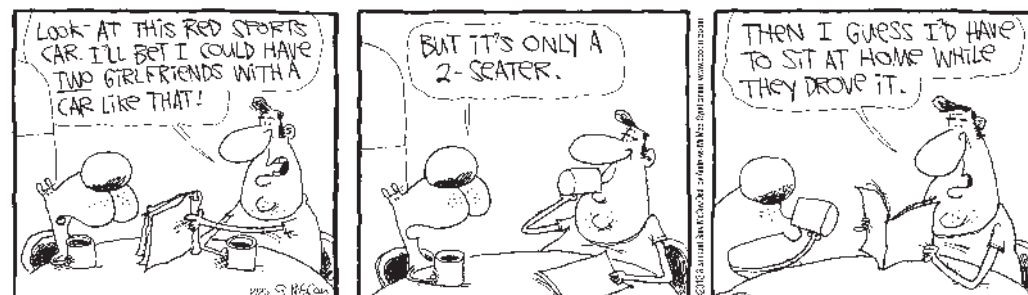
Adam@home

By Bryan Bassett



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Director Spike
4 Play area
8 Tennyson poem
12 Golf's Ernie
13 Addict
14 Bullets
15 "Serpico" star
17 Ham's dad
18 New York tribe
19 Omega preceder
21 — Juan
22 Fire starters
26 Drives off
29 CEO's deg.
30 Epoch
31 Freebie
32 Inlet
33 Release money
34 Frazier foe
35 Pistol
36 Talk a blue streak?
37 Round-about path

DOWN

39 Humorist
40 "— Blue?"
41 Garb
45 Herbal brews
48 Out-of-doors, as dining
50 Rim
51 Stead
52 PC linking system
53 Pairs
54 Round Table titles
55 Ninny

Solution time: 25 mins.

G	L	O	W	M	E	S	H	S	P	A
Y	O	G	A	E	C	H	O	P	E	C
M	A	H	V	E	J	O	U	S	L	E
S	N	E	E	R	S	N	O	E	L	S
A	R	T	S	S	U	N	E	D	A	M
P	O	E	H	A	I	T	R	A		
P	E	R	P	U	L	T	C	D	I	I
W	E	I	R	D	S	A	U	N	A	S
A	R	F	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N
C	O	I	P	O	N	E	K	A	T	E
F	S	C	T	I	O	N	S	I	F	W

Yesterday's answer 2-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 24; Kristin Davis, 53; Patricia Richardson, 67; Peter Fonda, 78.

Happy Birthday: Keep your emotions in check and your anger hidden. This is the year to do the work, not to puff up and make others resent what you are trying to do. Choose your battles wisely and pour your energy into doing good things. Opportunity is within reach if you go through the proper channels. Your numbers are 9, 15, 19, 22, 34, 41, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep a lid on any temptation to get angry or show emotions that will make you look weak or difficult to work with. Do everything in your power to live up to your promises and to finish what you start. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid any form of aggression. Don't take action based on emotions or anger. It's important to avoid going into debt helping others. It's good to be generous, but don't put yourself in a bad position financially, emotionally or legally. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will be difficult to control. Consider how to best handle your relationships with others. Listen carefully, gather the facts and aim to be respectful and diplomatic moving forward. Protect your personal information and passwords from anyone prone to nosiness. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful of someone from your past trying to cause problems for you now. Don't leave anything to chance, and be prepared to defend

your position. Integrity combined with diplomacy will win in the end. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Spending lavishly or showing off to impress someone will turn into a costly affair that will leave you in a vulnerable position financially. You will do better if you offer kindness and romantic gestures instead. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Problems will develop at home or within personal relationships if you share private information openly. Protect the ones you love and don't allow an outsider to interfere in your personal life or decisions. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Communication will be difficult if you or someone you are dealing with is not open and honest regarding feelings, intentions and future plans. If you feel uncertain, ask questions and look for peaceful ways to rectify any problem that arises. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your intuition guide you. Someone will mislead you or offer you false hope. Get whatever you negotiate in writing before you make plans to spend money or get involved in something that requires time and effort. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional matters will surface. Be careful what you agree to or promise others. Someone will hold you accountable if you don't live up to expectations. Stick close to home and avoid disputes with friends, relatives or peers. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will take advantage of you if you are too gullible. Don't believe everything you hear. An emotional situation will throw you off guard, causing you to make mistakes that can be costly. Don't share personal information. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Rely on your own instincts to help you make wise choices regarding your lifestyle, domestic arrangements and how you earn your living. An emotional situation should be handled openly and honestly. Question someone's facts if they don't add up. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have to win over those in key positions. Choose your words wisely and only put pressure on those you want to persuade to see things your way. A show of force will only lead to resistance. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are playful, entertaining and aggressive. You are emotional and imaginative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1									
			6		2	4		1		
	4	3	1			2				
	5					3	4			
			7		3					
	2	4						9		
		5			6	7	2			
6		8	2		9					1

Difficulty Level ★★

2/23

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	3	2	7	4	9	5	1
7	5	4	9	3	1	6	2	8
1	9	2	8	5	6	7	4	3
4	7	5	1	2	3	8	6	9
3	2	8	6	9	5	1	7	4
9	1	6	4	8	7	5	3	2
6	3	1	7	4	9	2	8	5
5	8	9	3	6	2	4	1	7
2	4	7	5	1	8	3	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★

2/23

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PATINA Solution: 4 letters

F	N	P	E	R	U	T	X	E	T	C	O	M	H	R
U	I	I	R	Z	C	A	R	B	O	N	X	E	S	E
R	N	R	T	O	N	A	R	P	S	O	I	T	I	L
N	R	A	E	A	T	O	P	I	F	R	D	A	N	B
I	E	E	V	A	L	E	R	P	I	E	L	R	A	
T	H	N	S	O	R	G	C	B	L	W	S	S	A	U
U	T	O	C	I	M	E	T	M	I	E	F	T	L	
R	A	T	U	D	D	S	O	I	G	E	A	S	A	
E	S	R	S	E	U	A	L	L	V	R	D	R	V	
U	L	E	L	S	R	G	E	B	O	O	E	E	I	A
Q	V	O	E	F	E	U	A	L	L	W	G	N	E	R
I	O	R	A	I	L	C	E	N	T	E	E	Y	W	N
T	T	C	N	A	I	E	I	N	E	G	Y	X	O	I
N	E	G	V	D	T	H	C	H	A	N	G	E	O	S
A	C	O	L	S	T	O	N	R	E	Y	A	L	D	H

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Acid, Ageing, Antique, Applied, Bronze, Carbon, Change, Color, Colston, Copper, Desert, Fade, Film, Firearms, Furniture, Geology, Green, Iron, Latin, Layer, Leather, Metals, Oxides, Oxygen, Protective, Residue, Slow, Steel, Stone, Surface, Tarnish, Texture, Thin, Tools, Unavoidable, Valuable, Value, Varnish, Verdigris, Vinegar, Wear, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Poetic

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

Athletics, Mariners will open season in Tokyo

O A K - LAND—For just the seventh time in league history, Major League Baseball is reportedly set to hold its season opener outside the United States and Canada.

The Oakland Athletics and Seattle Mariners will open the 2019 season at the Tokyo Dome in Japan, Susan Slusser of the San Francisco Chronicle reported on Wednesday. It will mark the fifth time the Tokyo Dome has hosted an MLB season opener, and the third time the Athletics season will open in Japan. They split two-game series against the Boston Red Sox in 2008 and Seattle in 2012.

Though MLB has yet to confirm the report, it seems the A's are well aware and even on board with the possibility of traveling to Japan and getting a head start on the 2019 season.

"If we're in the running, I'd be 100 percent all for it," manager Bob Melvin said on Wednesday. "Not only did we have a great time, it's a life lesson as much as anything, but it significantly helped our team come together in 2012."

Added new A's player Brandon Moss, who played against them with the Red Sox in 2008:

"I hit my first major-league home run (in Japan), it was awesome!" Moss said. "I love Tokyo, I love Japan, I loved everything about it. I would go back in a heartbeat even without baseball."

Due to the travel and logis-



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani (17) throws during a spring training baseball practice on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, in Tempe, Ariz.

AP

tics involved, previous openers in Japan were played one week ahead of the traditional opening day. That often causes issues that MLB teams do not always thrilled to deal with. As when the Dodgers-Diamondbacks opened the 2014 season in Australia, it forces teams to open up camp a little earlier and to figure how to fill the days between their return and the traditional start of the season.

The A's were able to overcome that awkwardness in 2012. Though sluggish ini-

tially, losing six of their first regular season games back home, they rebounded to win 94 games and a surprising division title.

On a side note, it might be a little surprising that MLB hasn't pegged the Angels and their new superstar Shohei Ohtani for this season-opening trip to Tokyo. Chances are that's because the bulk of these discussions and plans predated his MLB signing. It's definitely a possibility for the league to consider moving forward, and it wouldn't be a sur-

prise to see that happen sooner than later.

Meanwhile, in Arizona, Big league pitchers often talk about a "dead arm" period, when the ball does not seem to feel right or act properly.

San Francisco closer Mark Melancon pitched last year with the real thing—dead tissue in a forearm muscle, discovered only during a season-ending surgical procedure Sept. 12.

When doctors began a

procedure designed to allow the muscle to "breathe," they found something they did not expect.

"It was actually dying off," Melancon said.

"It had turned gray. When they went in, they literally saw it. The muscle was dying from being restricted. The doctor said he hadn't seen that too much. He said he had seen it, but not there, and not often. Very rare. It was definitely a surprise. I know he was

shocked," he said.

Melancon, who said he had been felt similar restriction off and on at various points of the season since 2012, also was taken aback.

While the surgery was considered a success, Melancon and the Giants can only hope the surgery will be enough to help him return to the All-Star form that led him to 98 saves and two NL All-Star teams with Pittsburgh in 2015-16.

There are no guarantees.

Free agent CB Davis meets with 49ers, Raiders



ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—

Free agent cornerback Vontae Davis has met with the San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders about upgrading their secondaries.

A person familiar with Davis' plans says he met with the Raiders on Wednesday after meeting with 49ers the previous day. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the meetings were not made public. Davis has also reportedly met with Cleveland and Buffalo.

Davis is a two-time Pro Bowler who is on the open market after being released by Indianapolis last November. Because he was cut, Davis can sign with a team immediately instead of waiting for the start of the new league year next month.

Davis lost his starting job midway through last season and then did not travel with the team for a game in Houston for "non-injury" reasons. Davis was then cut a few days later.

Davis said before the release that he had been hampered all season by a torn groin suffered in the third preseason game but the Colts said they were unaware of lingering problems from the injury.

Opposing quarterbacks had a 79.5 passer rating when targeting Davis in 2015-16, according to SportRadar. But he struggled last season, allowing a 105.7 rating.

Davis spent his first three seasons with Miami after being a first-round pick in 2009. He was traded to the Colts before the 2012 season and was voted to the Pro Bowl in 2014 and '15.

Davis has 22 career interceptions with 97 passes defensed and two sacks.

The Raiders and 49ers are both in need of upgrades at cornerback. San Francisco could lose starter Dontae Johnson in free agency next month after having traded Rashard Robinson during the season. The only cornerbacks under contract who played more than a

handful of snaps last season are 2017 third-round pick Ahkello Witherspoon and slot cornerback K'Waun Williams.

Oakland released starter David Amerson earlier this month and could also cut starter Sean Smith in order to create more salary cap room. Slot cornerback TJ Carrie is eligible to be a free agent, leaving last year's first-round pick Gareon Conley as the only projected starter currently under contract. Conley played just two games as a rookie because of injuries.

Meanwhile, in Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers have hired former NFL player Brentson Buckner as defensive line coach.

Buckner spent the past five seasons as defensive line coach for the Arizona Cardinals. They had 203 sacks during his tenure—tied for the seventh-most in the NFL.

The Bucs were last in the league with 22 sacks in 2017.

Buckner was a second-round draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1994.

Woods makes rare back-to-back starts



FLORIDA—

Missing the cut last week provided a reality check for Tiger Woods, who nevertheless will be the focus of attention again as he headlines a major-worthy field at the Honda Classic starting in south Florida on Thursday.

Woods lives only 15 miles (24 kilometres) from PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, so it always made sense that he would play his hometown event if his body was up to the challenge.

And any doubts about playing back-to-back weeks for the first time in three years were dispelled when a missed cut at the Genesis Open in Los Angeles last week gave the 14-times major champion an unwanted and unexpected mini-break.

Woods, 42, has not won a major since the 2008 U.S. Open, but a fellow multiple major champion suspects the American still has another special performance up his sleeve.

"I do believe he will win another major," said Padraig

Harrington. "His game is good enough to do that, from the outside looking in. It's just not good enough to do it on demand."

Harrington believes Woods' chances are becoming increasingly remote of matching the record 18 major titles won by Jack Nicklaus.

"I think the odds would be against him getting to 18, but I would be pretty sure, if you look at any of the great players in the game of golf, they always won a major later in their career."

"(Woods is) never going to have the same feel as or be as good as he was back in his heyday. And he would have been better in his heyday if had more good players around him to push him."

"He got very conservative after 2001 because he could win with a conservative game. Before that, he used to hit some spectacular shots, and I think you would have seen more of that if there was more good players around him to keep pushing him."

The Honda should offer another clue as to whether

Woods is progressing in his quest to hone his game in time for the Masters in early April.

A promising tie for 23rd at Torrey Pines in late January in his first start of the year gave way to a disappointing performance at Riviera last week, where Woods struggled with pretty much every facet of his game in a second-round 76.

This week's venue is not the sort of course that forgives errant shots, particularly the so-called Bear Trap, the difficult water-lined stretch from the 15th to the 17th that has gobbled up many a contender's hopes.

"My strategy has never changed," Irishman Harrington, the 2005 and 2015 champion, said of the stretch named after course designer Nicklaus.

"First goal is not to hit it in the water, second goal is not to hit it in the bunkers. And then hopefully you hit it on the green between them."

Rickie Fowler is defending champion in a field that also includes two other local residents, Justin Thomas and Rory McIlroy.

Rockets, Raptors try to keep rolling as games resume



HOUSTON (AP)—Golden State and Cleveland are used to looking down at the rest of the NBA, though it's Houston and Toronto enjoying that view at the All-Star break.

The Rockets and Raptors are the conference leaders and will try to keep rolling when play resumes. Houston has won 10 straight to edge past the Warriors, and Toronto is two games up in the East after seven consecutive wins.

So, are the Raptors the best team in the East?

"I don't know. The record says we are, but for me to sit here and say we are the best team -- we have confidence, but I'm not going to sit here and say we are the best team," Toronto coach Dwane Casey said. "Right now, we're No. 1. The numbers say that."

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni says the Rockets like being in the

Warriors' spot, but don't talk about them—for now.

"Nobody's ready for that yet," he said. "So as we go forward we'll see what we got, but yeah, we would love to be the No. 1 team without a doubt."

While Commissioner Adam Silver discussed the idea of revamping the playoff format during his All-Star Saturday press conference, the reality is that the NBA isn't near any kind of change.

A glance at the current standings explains why.

While having the best 16 teams in the league in the playoffs would be nice, Silver worries about the extra travel that could be created if teams were playing someone outside their conference. And if they were seeded 1 to 16 based on their records at the All-Star break, No. 4 Boston and No. 13 Portland would have to play a coast-to-coast series in the first round.

"We are just concerned about the



Team Stephen's DeMar Derozan of the Toronto Raptors, soars for a dunk against Team LeBron during the second half of an NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018, in Los Angeles.

James said Wednesday as the remodeled Cavaliers practiced for the first time after the All-Star break. "I think our league has been built the right way as far as when it comes to the postseason."

The league has always had teams from the Eastern and Western Conferences compete separately in the postseason with the respective conference winners meeting in the Finals. At last weekend's All-Star festivities in Los Angeles, Silver advanced the discussion about a potential change in the playoff structure, offering two options that both included teams being re-seeded regardless of conference connection.

"You also would like to have a format where your two best teams are ultimately going to meet in the Finals," Silver said. "You could have a situation where the top two teams in the league are meeting in the conference finals or somewhere else. So we're going to continue to look at that. It's still my hope that we're going to figure out ways."

Any change would require a majority vote by league owners.

For James, who has been to seven straight Finals with Miami and Cleveland, altering the playoff format would be somewhat disrespectful.

"It just changes the landscape of the history of the game," he said. "It's cool to mess around with the All-Star Game, we proved you can do that, but let's not get too crazy about the playoffs. You have Eastern Conference and you have Western Conference. You have Eastern Conference champions, you have guys from the Eastern Conference that win the big dance and sometimes you have it from the West as well."

overall travel that we would have in the top 16 teams," Silver said.

No. 5 Cleveland against No. 12 Denver also would create some difficult travel, though Minnesota against Milwaukee in a 7-10 series would be quite convenient.

The other current first-round pairings, if the 1-16 format was in play:

No. 1 Houston vs No. 16 Los Angeles Clippers.

No. 2 Golden State vs No. 15 New Orleans.

No. 3 Toronto vs. No. 14 Philadelphia.

No. 6 San Antonio vs No. 11 Oklahoma City.

No. 8 Washington vs No. 9 Indiana.

Silver also mentioned the idea of keeping the playoff field as the top eight in each conference, but seeding them 1 to 16. In that scenario, Miami would replace the Clippers as the current No. 16 team.

Meanwhile, LeBron James has only followed an Eastern route to the NBA Finals.

He doesn't want to see that change. "I would disagree with that,"

Cuban fined \$600K for tanking comments

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA fined outspoken Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban \$600,000 on Wednesday for comments about tanking during a podcast with Hall of Famer Julius Erving.

Commissioner Adam Silver said the fine was for "public statements detrimental to the NBA." The league said the podcast with Erving was posted Sunday, the day the All-Star game was played in Los Angeles.

Cuban said during the 30-minute interview that he met recently with some of his players and told them "losing is our best option." Cuban was trying to illustrate to Erving how he believes he is a transparent owner.

"I'm probably not supposed to say this, but I just had dinner with a bunch of our guys the other night," Cuban said. "And here we are. We weren't competing for the playoffs. I was like, 'Look, losing is our best option.'"

"Adam would hate to be hearing

that. But at least I sat down and I explained it to them. And I explained what our plans are going to be this summer, that we're not going to tank again. This is like a year and a half of tanking. That was too brutal for me."

The Mavericks dumped veterans Deron Williams and Andrew Bogut around the trading deadline last season and had their highest draft pick (No. 9) since ending up with Dirk Nowitzki from that spot in 1998. They drafted rookie point guard Dennis Smith Jr., one of the league's rising stars.

After trading veteran guard Devin Harris to Denver at the deadline this season, Dallas (18-40) is tied for the fewest wins in the NBA and among seven teams with 18 or 19 victories at the All-Star break.

Coach Rick Carlisle said he talked to Cuban in "great detail" about the comments Tuesday night and that his owner apologized for them.



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By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Jerome Delos Santos, Keoni Kapileo, and Lorenzo Sebaklim combined for five of GSM's 10 hits in a quick 20-4 win over the Outlaws in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Ballfield.

It was GSM's second win in as many games, as it shares the early lead with idle Falcons, while the Outlaws absorbed its second lopsided loss after the 13-2 crushing it received from the Blue Jays last week.

Delos Santos had a pair of singles and scored two RBIs and three runs before being walked twice each in the fourth and fifth innings, while Kapileo, batting behind the former, went 2-for-2 with a two-RBI single and two runs. Sebaklim had an RBI triple in the second to bring in Franco Nakamura, who singled and moved to second on a passed ball charge to the Outlaws' Joel Naputi. Sebaklim also walked twice and was hit by a Manny Salas pitch

GSM joins Falcons on top



JON PEREZ
GSM's Jerome Delos Santos, right, prepares to run toward home plate, while Outlaws third baseman T.J. Dela Cruz looks on during their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Ballfield.

he went 2-for-3 with one run and made a two-RBI single, with one out, at the bottom of the fifth. He advanced to second base on a Vince Cepeda throwing error and moved closer to home plate when Flores walked Edward Cepeda. Dela Cruz, however, was out at home on an Olympio Muna fielder's choice after GSM shortstop Lorenzo Sebaklim made a timely throw to catcher Pat Alepuyo.

Leading 12-2, after four complete innings, GSM pressed on in the fifth with a leadoff walk by Keoni Kaipat and later scored on an Outlaws error. GSM went on to register eight runs in that inning and the game ended early via the 10-run rule.

Tony Flores pitched four plus innings, giving up four earned runs on six hits with three strikeouts and two walks. He gave up consecutive singles to Verlance Secharmidal and Justin Mizutani before striking out Salas. Dela Cruz then singled, but was out at home, while Flores walked Edward Cepeda. L.J. Sebaklim then replaced Flores with Muna at bat and the former had an easy time on the mound. The closer got the third out when he forced Jose Kapileo to ground out to first baseman Byron Kaipat after a fielder's choice by Muna.

Easy wins for 2 teams in boys U15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club, TanHoldings, and Matansa cruised to victories in their respective games in the boys U15 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

In the first match, Matansa got a free win (3-0), as Shirley's Football Club was forced to forfeit the curtain-raiser because its players had no IDs (league requires every player to present Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-issued ID before a game).

In the second game, Kanoa earned a 3-0 shutout victory over MP United with three different players scoring for the former. Ian Karl Maniago hit the board in the third minute, while Markus Toves and Brian Lubao did the same in the 43rd and 48th, respectively.

In the last tiff, TanHoldings eased past Paire, 10-3, behind Taka Borja's six goals. Borja had four straight goals (11th, 15th, 19th and, 24th minute) and added two more in the 61st and 67th minute. Luis Claridades chipped in three, while Aloyzeus Angeles contributed one.

Paire drew a pair of goals from Kaden Church and one from Dylan Mister.

CO-ED U13 TanHoldings-1 15, TanHoldings-2 2

In the battle of sister teams

at the Hopwood Middle School Field, TanHoldings-1 showed no love lost to TanHoldings-2.

Mark Joseph Roque paced TanHoldings-1 with his six goals, while Anthony Bergancia, Ariel Narvaez, and Angelo Pulido logged three each in the squad's demolition of its opponent. Mary Joy Aniana made the two goals for TanHoldings-2.

Matansa 5, Kanoa-2 4

Matansa edged Kanoa-2, thanks to Chanyang Woo's goal in the second half. Woo drilled two goals in the final 30 minutes of the match, while Jin Wen Xin also had a pair. Nazzir Altamirano scored the other goal for Matansa.

As for Kanoa's side, it got two goals each from Markus

Pelisamen and Tyler Omelau. **Kanoa-1 5, MP United 5**

Markus Toves knocked in two goals, including the equalizer with only one minute left in their match against MP United.

Toves' second goal came in the 59th minute or nine minutes after Richard Castro gave MP United a shaky lead, 5-4.

The MPU-Kanoa-1 match was also tied at the break, 2-2, with Andrew Chung scoring two for the former and Sophia Quintos and Toves registering one goal each for the latter. Then in the second half, Taehun Han and John Mark Anastacio lit up the board for Kanoa-1 before Toves closed out for the team. MP United, on the other hand, drew one goal each from Leo Takahashi, Kaito



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club, left, and Paire FC players chase the ball during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

in the fifth inning in his four plate appearances.

The Outlaws batted only 6-for-23 against the GSM pitching duo of Tony Flores and

L.J. Sebaklim and also committing eight errors, three of which allowed GSM to score.

T.J. Dela Cruz was the lone bright spot for the Outlaws, as

Coach-player tandem triumphs



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jeff Race, left, and Juncheol Hwang exchange high-fives after scoring a point against Robbie Schorr and J.C. Ferrer during the mixed up doubles semis game in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The teacher and student pair of Jeff Race and Juncheol Hwang had a successful partnership as they won the mixed up doubles crown in the 2018 Coconut Tennis Classic.

The No. 2 seed Race and Hwang ruled the 32-player field after sweeping No. 3 Ken Song and Isaac Heo in the finals, 7-5, 6-3, last Monday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Race and one his students at Aces Tennis Academy made it to the title game last Sunday after eliminating

No. 4 Robbie Schorr and J.C. Ferrer in a closely fought three-set semis match, 6-7, 7-3, 10-6.

Song and Heo, on the other hand, needed only two sets to pull off an upset over No.1 seed Peter Loken and Daniel Heo, 6-4, 7-6, to take the finals berth at the upper half of the draw and set up a championship showdown against Race and Hwang.

Meanwhile, other winners in the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association-sanctioned tournament were Daniel Jeoung, Irin Chung, David Kwon, and Helen Kim.

Kim got the girls U12 singles crown after slipping past Ye Jin Son in the finals, 3-6, 6-2, 10-8. Kwon notched the boys championship after earning a 5-0 record in the round-robin competition. Kwon sealed the title and got a perfect record after a 6-3, 6-0 win over La Hunn Lam last Monday.

In the U10 age group, which also had a round-robin format, Danny Jeoung prevailed against three other players to win the boys crown, while Chung won over two opponents.

Izuka gets Administrator of the Year award

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has one of the most successful and active development sports programs in the CNMI. Thanks to NMIFA's hardworking officials, including vice president Vickie Izuka, the sport has seen continued growth since the group's inception in 2005.

Izuka, the 2017 NMSA

Sports Administrator of the Year, has been with NMIFA since Day 1, getting involved with the association's activities, particularly with its youth development program.

Last year, she served as chair of the NMIFA Youth Committee, which oversees the group's spring and fall season leagues that serve as breeding ground for the island's future national players. Izuka also helped NMIFA

RACE

From Page 32

made up of Robbie Schorr, Carol and Sean Lee, Isabel, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Maria and Anthony Gregoire, Hye Jin Elliot, Daniel Kang, Richard Steele, Song, Vincent Tudela, Grace Choi, Michael Ren, and Malika Miyawaki.

"It's an honor to coach and work with this great bunch of young players," said Race, who thanked Peter Loken and Dong Min Lee for also coaching some of the CNMI players.

Tudela, on behalf of the team, gave props to Race for the efforts, time, and patience he spent to them in ensuring the squad's success.

"Hats off to coach Jeff and all the members of the team. We all work together to represent the CNMI well," Tudela said.

Race started his work with the elite squad in early part

of 2017 as he led the selection of the CNMI Junior Team that eventually topped the 2017 North Pacific Regional Championships held in Guam.

In the regionals, which also featured players from Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Race-coached squad brought home five championships after topping the boys and girls 16 and under singles, girls 16 and under doubles, boys 14 and under singles, and boys U12 team event.

Less than two months after the tournament in Guam, the CNMI bet traveled to Fiji and kept their momentum by clinching two titles (girls U16 singles and doubles) and making finals and semis appearances in several other events in the POJC. The Commonwealth bet went on to defeat the powerhouse teams of Tahiti, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia to bag the Nations Cup for the second straight year.

SAN NICOLAS

From Page 32

Banquet last night at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Sapong was selected as the Female Athlete of the Year, while Woo and Lee were named the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year.

It was Sapong's second straight award, while Lee, who spent most of 2017 competing off-island in the Junior International Tennis Federation Circuit, earned her third straight and fourth overall student plum. Woo got his first.

San Nicolas also earned the recognition for the first time after winning the bronze in the men's 94-kilogram division. He gave the CNMI its first medal in a Pacific Games-organized event since the Commonwealth took the baseball gold in 2011 in New Caledonia.

San Nicolas said that he was surprised to win the Male Athlete of the Year award, but at the same time was happy that athletes like him are being recognized.

"I was really surprised be-

cause honestly, I wasn't thinking of winning the athlete of the year award. I just came here since it's a banquet and thought about the food," San Nicolas said with a laugh. But seriously, getting the award was a bonus for me since I have no goal or plan of winning this. I train to represent the CNMI and make our islands proud. I work hard so I could compete and improve myself."

Sapong made it back-to-back after her impressive performance in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom. Resetting her personal best time in the 100m run served as the highlight of her London trip. She ran on Heat 6 at the London Olympic Stadium and shaved off 0.06 milliseconds from her old PBT (13.35 seconds) after clocking in at 13.29.

Woo spent 10 months at the ITF Regional Training Center in Fiji with the Pacific Oceania touring team and competed in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the Australian National Championship.

"I'm really surprised, but happy that my hard work was



strengthen its interscholastic soccer program, which provides training and tournaments for students in the elementary, middle school, and high school levels both in public and private schools.

With Izuka at the helm of NMIFA Youth Committee, the group also managed to introduce other soccer programs for athletes/students in the 18 and below age group. These programs include the National Elite Academy, Physical Edu-

cation Support Program, 3v3 tournaments, Spring and Fall Youth Festivals, and Challenge Cup tournaments. These

programs have attracted close to 1,000 students, bringing NMIFA halfway to its target of 2,000 in the next five years.

CNMI paddling tryouts start tomorrow

Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation would like to inform interested individuals that the open trials for the CNMI national men's and women's teams will begin this Saturday at Kilili Beach.

The tryouts for the squads that will represent the Commonwealth to the 2018 Micronesian Games will run from 8am to 12pm. There will

be two more trials after this weekend's session and they will take place on March 3 and 10.

Though the trials are open to any interested individuals, the federation still sets requirements as per Micronesian Games rules.

Micronesian paddlers who will join the tryouts must be

residents of CNMI for at least three years before the Micronesian Games and seven years for non-Micronesian. They should also be affiliated with any of the NMNPSF-member club and own a paddle.

For more information, contact race director Valerie Hofschneider at valhofschneider@gmail.com. (*Saipan Tribune*)

RANGAMAR

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and shot put—and also represented the CNMI in softball and indoor volleyball. Camacho, on the other hand, began her career in basketball and later competed in athletics, soccer, and fast-pitch softball.

Though their induction to the elite group was a culmination of their notable performance in various sports, both Camacho and Rangamar said they are not yet officially retired, as they still plan to compete in this year's Micronesian Games in Yap.

Rangamar said she's honored with the award, as the Hall of Fame is the peak of all her achievements.

"This is a recognition from our islands. I am thankful for this achievement. It makes me want to work harder and push myself again. Age is just a number. I asked Eli, my husband, if I could compete in the [regional championships] or

qualify for the CNMI team to the Micro Games. I'm going to work harder since everyone is getting stronger. I need to keep up with the young ones," she said.

Her husband, Eli, is a many-time national player and coach in basketball, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame last year, making them the first couple to be given the same honor.

Rangamar has collected three gold, one silver, and three bronze medals in the Micronesian Games and the then Micronesian Area Championships, which is now known as the Oceania Micronesia Regional Championships.

Her greatest achievement in representing the CNMI, however, was when she set the Micro Games record in the women's discus throw. Rangamar posted 31.69 meters in the 2002 competition in Pohnpei, a feat that still stands today and unbroken for more than a decade.

Meanwhile, Camacho's

sporting career has spanned 20 years. She guided the CNMI to its first ever basketball gold in the 2006 Micro Games. Before that, she helped the CNMI to bronze medal finishes in basketball in the 1998 Micro Games in Palau and the 2001 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Guam. She was also part of the bronze-medal winning CNMI team in the 2010 (Palau) and 2014 (Pohnpei) Micro Games.

"I'm grateful for this honor. Although, I'm already in the HOF, it won't stop me from again trying out to represent the CNMI in the Micro Games. If I get selected on the national team, this would be my fifth Micro Games. That's why I'm also thinking that this could be my last. But it all depends on my body. That's why I only focused in playing basketball and stopped playing other sports like soccer. I need to keep myself in shape since there are a lot of good youth players," she said.



Athletics,
Mariners will open
season in Tokyo

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Rockets, Raptors
try to keep rolling
as games resume

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

San Nicolas leads awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Weightlifter Angel San Nicolas' bronze medal win in last year's Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu earned him the 2017 Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Athlete of the Year award.



Repeat winners Zarinae Sapong and Carol Lee, and Ji Min Woo joined

San Nicolas on NMSA's athletes honor roll and all four were recognized during the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports

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From left, Male and Female Athletes of the Year Angel San Nicolas and Zarinae Sapong, and TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year Ji Min Woo pose for a photo after being recognized at the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Race, junior tennis team stand out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior National Tennis Team was put in a tough test during the Nations Cup in Fiji last year and passed it to reign supreme in the 14-country field.

"This year's (2017) Na-

tions Cup was as close as it could possibly be. The score line shows us winning by one match, but several of the matches we took were actually won by one point, as we were playing no-add due to bad weather. So, in reality we won by a single point of tennis out of hundreds played. I

am super proud of this team," coach Jeff Race said in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* after they got back from Fiji following their back-to-back wins in the Nations Cup and successful campaign in the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Race and his CNMI Junior

National Team were honored during the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet with the Hall of Famer getting his fifth Coach of the Year award and his junior crew taking home their second Team of the Year plum. The squad was

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach Jeff Race, seventh left, delivers a brief message after he and the CNMI Junior National Tennis Team were honored at the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Rangamar and Camacho inducted into Hall of Fame



JON PEREZ

Dolores Rangamar, left, and Connie Camacho are all smiles after being inducted into the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Dolores Pua Rangamar and Connie Camacho were enshrined in the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last night during the 2017 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held at the

Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Rangamar excelled in athletics, specifically in field events—discus throw, hammer throw, javelin throw,

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